



Safety Matters

brought to you by 

Questions?
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ELECTRICAL HAZARDS IN THE WORKPLACE

Some people have the idea that you must be working around a high voltage line to be at risk for electrocution. That's not true. Electrical hazards are a danger in just about any workplace.

Electric shock can cause a range of painful and disabling injuries. These include brain damage, burns, and loss of limbs, blindness, and broken bones from falls, violent injuries from unexpected start-up of electrically powered equipment, and many other injuries.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- **Use electrical equipment only if you are authorized and qualified to do so.** Never make unauthorized electrical repairs - they have led to many fatal accidents.
- **Do not use electrical equipment which is improperly installed or repaired, or damaged in any way.** Report these circumstances to your GM or supervisor immediately.
- **Use tools and equipment the way they were intended.** Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions about how to use and maintain tools and other electrical devices.
- **Do not use makeshift wiring, and report any that you observe.** Don't use extension cords or cables as permanent wiring - they are intended for temporary use only.
- **Take care to prevent damage to cords and cables.** They should not be draped across traffic areas where they can be damaged by feet or hand
- **Ensure that power strips are only used for their intended purpose – audio/visual equipment.** Never use a power strip with tools, equipment or appliances.
- **Maintain 36" of clearance around breaker panels** – careful not to store any flammables or combustibles in the area.
- **Inspect breaker panels frequently** to ensure all breakers are properly labeled as to what they control and that there are not any openings exposing employees to live electrical.
- **Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) whenever you use power tools.** Also use a GFCI for protection when you use electrical equipment outdoors or in damp areas such as around sinks or water sources.
- **Always be aware of warning signs of electrical issues** (tripping breakers, sparking outlets, outlets showing signs of getting hot or burned). Contact a qualified electrician for assistance if necessary.



For Loss Prevention Assistance, contact a member of the IMA Loss Control Team. For additional loss control resources, visit the IMA Sonic Insurance Program web portal, imacorp-sip.com