

AUGUST SAFETY BULLETIN

ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

We rely on electricity, but sometimes underestimate its capability of causing injury. Even household current (120 volts) can stop your heart. We need to be aware of the hazards electricity poses, such as shock, fire and explosion, and either eliminate or control those hazards.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Make sure electrical equipment is properly connected, grounded and in good working order.
- Extension cords may not be used as permanent wiring and should be removed after temporary use for an activity or event.
- Surge suppressors with built-in circuit breakers may only be used for computers and may not be used for printers or other electrical devices.
- High amperage equipment such as space heaters, portable air conditioners and other equipment must be plugged directly into permanent wall receptacles and not plugged into surge protectors.
- Do not access, use or alter any building's electrical service, including circuit breaker panels, unless you are specifically qualified and authorized to do so.
- Wet environments can increase the risk of an electrical shock.

HOUSEKEEPING AND MAINTENANCE

- Maintain 30 inches or width of the panel whichever is greater clearance in front of electrical panels to ensure a safe environment for facilities workers.
- Make sure that all junction boxes are covered.

AVOID ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE TRAINING

- Making repairs or alterations to any electrical equipment.
- Opening up the case, or removing barrier guards, of any equipment that utilizes electricity.
- Using any tools or a meter to measure for the presence of electricity.
- Resetting a tripped circuit breaker, or replace a blown fuse.

ASK A QUALIFIED PERSON TO PERFORM THESE TASKS.