

gibca SAFETY TOOLBOX TALKS



Working with electricity on jobsites

Due to the rugged nature of construction work, normal use of electrical equipment causes wear and tear that results in insulation breaks, short-circuits, and exposed wires. Without ground-fault protection, it can send potentially injuring or fatal current through a worker's body.

One way to combat electrical shock and electrocution is to use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use them on all 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles that are not on an existing building's permanent wiring, or use an assured equipment grounding conductor program (AEGCP), and use distinctly marked double-insulated tools and equipment.

Electrical Safety Tips for Working with Power Tools:

- Inspect electrical equipment before use. Ensure that the path to ground is continuous.
- Test the GFCI before use.
- Remove from service any equipment with frayed cords, missing ground prongs, cracked tool casings, missing strain relief, etc.
- Do not remove ground prongs from electrical cords to fit into any electrical source.
- Avoid standing in wet areas when using portable electrical power tools.

REMEMBER: Electrical Incidents happen when electrical equipment's power supply is not grounded or the path has been broken, and current travels through a worker's body, causing electrical burns or death.

If a Colleague is Shocked:

- Look first. Don't touch. The person may still be in contact with the electrical source. Touching the person may pass the current through you, making YOU a victim as well.
- Call or have someone else call 911 or emergency medical help. Give as many specifics as possible: the exact location of the victim, the victim's condition, and what happened.
- Turn off the source of electricity. If not possible, move the source away from you and the shocked person with a non-conducting object. Wet wood can act as a conductor.
- Don't touch burns, break blisters, or remove burned clothing. Electrical shock may also cause burns inside the body, so be sure the person is taken to a medical professional.