

ELECTRICAL SAFETY: STAY SHOCK-FREE

Electricity is something we work with every day, but it can be dangerous if it isn't handled properly. Knowing the risks and hazards when working with electricity is essential to help prevent injuries and incidents from occurring.

If an electrical fault causes a fire, it's not just the flames that pose a danger. The smoke and toxic fumes can be extremely harmful, and the fire can spread quickly, putting you and your co-workers at risk.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

- ELECTRICAL HAZARDS
- INJURIES
- SAFE WORK PRACTICES



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

ELECTRICAL SAFETY: STAY SHOCK-FREE



ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Electrical hazards can be found in many areas of a workplace and have the potential to cause serious injury or death. Common hazards include:

- Contact with energized equipment or exposed wiring.
- Arc flashes and arc blasts that release intense heat, light and pressure.
- Electric shock from faulty equipment or unsafe work practices.
- Burns caused by contact with electricity or heat generated during an electrical incident.

ELECTRICAL INJURIES

Electrical incidents can result in severe and sometimes life-threatening injuries. Even low levels of electrical current can have serious consequences. Common electrical injuries include:

- Electric shock can cause muscle spasms, breathing difficulties, heart irregularities or cardiac arrest and even death.
- Burns can seriously damage skin and underlying tissue, lead to permanent scarring and, in severe cases, be fatal.
- Arc flash injuries can also cause serious burns but also eye injuries and hearing damage.
- Secondary injuries can be caused by falls or sudden reactions to electrical shock, such as concussions, fractures or other traumatic injuries.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES AROUND ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Following safe work procedures can significantly reduce the risk of electrical incidents.

- Only authorized and trained workers should perform electrical work.
- Report damaged wiring, equipment and other electrical hazards immediately.
- Inspect cords, plugs and electrical equipment for damage prior to use. If damage is found, remove it from service and have it repaired or replaced by a qualified professional.
- Before performing any electrical work, follow all lockout and tag-out procedures. Always test equipment to verify that power has been isolated before beginning work.
- Stay at least 10 feet (3 metres) away from overhead power lines with voltages up to 50 kV. Increase this distance when working near higher voltage lines.
- Contact the utility locator service provider before digging to identify underground electrical lines and other buried utilities.
- Avoid using electrical equipment outdoors during wet weather or in damp conditions. Protect your electrical components from wet environments.
- Keep electrical panels, boxes and cabinets secured and make sure all components are in good working condition.

REMEMBER:

Electrical safety starts with awareness. Take the time to identify hazards, follow established safety procedures and use the right equipment for the job.

Scan the QR code to access all BCFSC Crew Talks and to subscribe.

