

Toolbox Talk # 9.01 – Electrical Safe Practices

Have a healthy respect for electricity and its power. It can hurt or even kill. Recognize electrical hazards and use OSHA-required safe work practices to control or eliminate hazards.

Safe Work Practices

Safe work practices include:

- Deenergizing electric power circuits and/or equipment before working near them, inspecting them, or making repairs. Lock out and tag the circuits.
- Using electric tools, extension cords, and other equipment that is in good repair.
- Using good judgment when working near energized lines (including underground and overhead lines).
- Using appropriate protective equipment.

Deenergizing Electrical Equipment

The accidental or unexpected starting of electrical equipment can cause injury or death. Don't work near any part of an electric power circuit that you could contact during your work, unless you are protected against shock by deenergizing the circuit and grounding it, or by guarding it effectively by insulation or other means.

Tools & PPE

To maximize your safety, you should always use tools that work properly. Tools that are used to handle energized conductors must be designed and constructed to withstand the voltages and stresses to which they are exposed.

You must:

- Regularly inspect tools, cords, grounds, and accessories.
- Use safety features like three-prong plugs, double-insulated tools, and safety switches. Keep machine guards in place and follow proper procedures.
- Never use worn or frayed extension cords.

In addition, when you work with electricity, you must use the personal protective equipment required for the job. The equipment may consist of rubber insulating gloves, hoods, sleeves, matting, blankets, line hose, and protective helmets and footwear.

Overhead and Underground Lines

If you are to work near overhead power lines, the lines must be deenergized and grounded or other protective measures must be provided before work is started. Unqualified employees and mechanical equipment must stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power

lines. For voltages over 50,000 volts, the clearance should be increased by four inches for each additional 10,000 volts.

If you are using jackhammers, bars, or other hand tools in work areas where the exact location of underground electric powerlines is unknown and the tool could contact a line, you must wear insulated protective gloves.

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Project: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Company: _____

Other safety issues covered or comments from crew members:

Attendees:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
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