Workplace Safety: Avoid Common Electrical Hazards

Contact with or exposure to electricity is one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities. Follow these tips to avoid electrical injuries.

### Overhead Power Line Contact

- **46%** of all electrical fatalities are caused by contact with overhead power lines.
- **57%** of overhead power line fatalities were in non-electrical occupations.
- Always assume all lines are live and dangerous.
- Always look up; be aware of overhead power lines.
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Do not touch anything that is in contact with overhead power lines.
- Carry equipment, including ladders, horizontally to avoid contact with power lines.
- Stay at least 35 feet away from downed power lines.

### Accidental Contact with Energized Conductors or Parts

- **45%** of all electrical fatalities were caused by working on or near energized conductors or parts.
- **74%** of these fatalities were in electrical occupations.
- Always test for voltage before you perform work. Be sure to also test the area around the equipment you are working on to avoid accidental contact with energized equipment.
- Always perform a site and risk assessment before conducting work. Hazards exist on and near the equipment you are working on.
- When possible, turn off power before conducting work.
- Follow proper lockout/tagout procedures.
- Avoid complacency. Every job is different, make sure you follow the hierarchy of controls and other electrical safety work practices on every job.

### Electrical Safety in the Workplace

- **69%** of all electrical fatalities involved non-electrical occupations.
- GFCI protection should be installed where electricity and water may come in contact.
- Be aware of potential electrical hazards in the workplace. Avoid electrical rooms and other potentially hazardous areas.
- All electrical work should be completed by qualified workers with proper training.
- Know when to say when. If you feel unsafe performing a job, say something.

### 5 sources accounted for 92% of all electrical fatalities

- Overhead power lines
- Unexpected contact with electricity
- Damaged wiring
- Working on energized parts
- Ground fault