

## Preventing the Tragedy of Electrical Accidents

Hundreds of deaths occur every year as a direct result of electrical accidents at both work and home. What is even more tragic is that most of these fatalities could be easily avoided. Below, you will find some simple tips on how to work safely with electricity.

You must understand that:

- Normal workplace or household current can be lethal
- Electrocutions may result from contact with an object as seemingly innocuous as a broken light bulb
- Overloaded electrical circuits can start fires
- Electricity will always try to travel to ground, even if it means going through a person
- Failure to inspect electrical equipment before use can lead to shocks, burns, or even death

Most take electricity for granted and rarely think about the hazards. Perhaps that's why there are so many workplace and home accidents and fires involving electricity. In order to prevent electrical blunders, make sure you understand these basic electrical ***Don'ts***:

### **Don't use...**

- Cords or wires with damaged or worn insulation
- Electrical equipment that smokes, sparks, shocks, smells, blows a fuse, or trips a circuit
- Any non-GFCI outlet in a wet area
- Cords or electrical equipment in areas with flammable materials that are not approved for this specific use
- A cord with a bent or missing grounding plug
- Metal ladders, hard hats, or tools when working near electricity
- Water on an electrical fire



*When we share the responsibility for safety in the workplace, everyone wins!!*

**Don't touch...**

- Anything electric when your hands are wet, when you're standing on a wet floor, or when you're in contact with a wet surface
- An electrical shock victim

**Don't place...**

- Cords where they can be stepped on, run over by material handling equipment, or damaged in any other way
- Cords near heat or water
- Sharp fasteners or nails on electrical cords

**Don't permit...**

- Overloaded outlets or circuits
- Loose electrical connections
- Dust or dirt buildup on machinery
- Blind reaches into any areas that may contain energized parts
- Combustible trash on or around electrical equipment or circuits
- Anyone who isn't trained and qualified to repair electrical equipment
- Attempts to use or start locked or tagged out electrical equipment
- Unauthorized removal or a lockout device or tag