



# SAFETY NEWS BULLETIN

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## Electrical Hazards

Electrical hazards are doubly dangerous in that there is not only the chance of electrocution, but there is also the probability that any electric shock will cause a loss of consciousness that may result in a fall and additional injuries.

Some Causes of Receiving an Electric Shock:

- From a defective power tool.
- From defective extension cords.
- From overloading a switch or overriding a bypass.
- By not grounding electrical equipment or not using Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters.
- By coming in close contact with live electric lines.
- By coming too close to high voltage power lines causing the power to arc and make contact.

Some Ways to Avoid Electric Hazards:

- Use Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's).
- Always inspect tools and equipment for frayed cords and defective plugs before using them.
- Never use a power tool that has had the ground plug removed; inspect the plug.
- Never stand in water and operate a power tool without proper (i.e., insulated) footwear.
- Keep extension cords out of water when in use.
- Consider all power lines "live" and avoid contact with them.
- Follow the company Assured Grounding / Electrical Protection Program.
- Disconnect all electrical tools and cords when not in use.
- Ensure all temporary lighting is equipped with bulb covers.
- Make sure all power supplies, circuit boxes, and breaker boxes are properly marked to indicate their purpose.
- Maintain minimum clearance distance from high voltage power lines (see OSHA Regulations for requirements based on voltage and equipment in use).

*Contact your SCC Representative to schedule an 'Electrical Safety' Meeting or to be sure that your company is in compliance with OSHA regulations. If you have any questions, call your Safety Representative or contact our office at [osha-updates@safetycompliance.com](mailto:osha-updates@safetycompliance.com).*

Sincerely,

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