



Electrical Safety: Power

Working near or with electricity can be hazardous. A mistake around electricity could easily be your last. Even experienced electricians and electrical power installers must stay on guard. The main types of electrical injuries are electric shock, burns, falls caused by coming in contact with electrical energy, and electrocution.

Vinny's Story

Vinny and two co-workers were installing individual electrical units in an apartment building under construction. The circuit breaker protecting the main breaker box for the entire building had been labeled but not locked out. The crew began wiping down the individual units before a pre-startup inspection by the building department. They did not know that the utility workers had energized the internal circuit. As Vinny wiped down one of the units, his right hand contacted an electrical circuit and his left contacted a bar on the electrical circuit. This created a path for electrical current to flow. He died from electrocution.

- ✖ What caused this incident?
- ✖ How could this have been prevented?
- ✖ Have you ever been electrically shocked and injured on the job, or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- **Always** make sure circuits are **de-energized before** doing any type of work on electrical circuits or around electricity, by testing with an AC voltage detector.
- **Always** use lockout devices to prevent a circuit from becoming live.
- **Always** put a tag on the locked electrical circuit to warn others that they should not turn it on.
- **Always** be aware of equipment marked high-voltage, which can store lethal energy even when disconnected from the power source.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent injuries or deaths from electrical power?

OSHA Standards: 1926.416 and 1026.417



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- Always de-energize, lock out, and tag all electrical systems before working on electrical circuits.
- Always verify that electrical systems are de-energized, by testing with an AC voltage detector.

**GET
INFORMATION**

CDC/NIOSH INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-800-232-6348 | cdc.gov/info | cdc.gov/niosh

CPWR: Contact 301-578-8500 | cpwr-r2p@cpwr.com | www.cpwr.com/toolbox-talks

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