

Talk 8: Electrical Safety



Why This Matters

Electric shock can be fatal at surprisingly low voltages. Damaged cords or improvised connections also start fires. Treat every lead as live.

Common Electrical Hazards

- ✓ Damaged insulation, exposed conductors, or crushed plugs
- ✓ Overloaded boards and daisy-chained double adaptors
- ✓ Portable RCDs missing or not tested
- ✓ Temporary supplies run through water or across vehicle routes
- ✓ Unauthorized repairs or "taped" joints

Safe Use Practices

- ✓ Complete pre-use checks on every tool, lead, and plug
- ✓ Use only tagged equipment within date and remove anything out of test
- ✓ Route leads overhead or use cable ramps; never create trip points
- ✓ Keep electrical gear dry; elevate boards off wet ground
- ✓ Isolate power at the source before maintenance

Testing, Tagging & Isolation

- ✓ Respect color-coded test tags—if expired, tag out and report
- ✓ Use lockout/tagout for plant repairs or when multiple crews share circuits
- ✓ Only licensed electricians open panels or modify wiring
- ✓ Record defects in the maintenance system immediately

If You Find a Fault

1. Stop using the equipment immediately
2. Isolate at the plug or switchboard if safe
3. Tag the equipment "Out of Service" with details
4. Report to your supervisor and the electrical contractor

Discussion Points

- ✓ Where are today's temporary boards and RCD test records kept?
- ✓ Do we have enough cable protectors for pedestrian areas?
- ✓ Any plant requiring lockout before we start?