

SAFETY TOOL BOX MEETING

NO 17 - WORKING SAFETY WITH ELECTRICITY

There is a very tragic way to learn about the dangers of misusing electrical tools and equipment - it is called electrocution.

Electricity is so much part of our modern way of life, pushing in a plug second nature and all items of electrical equipment are produced to strict safety standards, so to all intents and purposed, used correctly, they ARE safe.

Why then do so many people suffer shocks? Everyone knows electricity can and does KILL and still people continue to take stupid risks with it OR they take it for granted where safety is concerned - both of which can lead to shock, burns, serious injury or even a horrible death!

The dangers are particularly increased at work - where electrical equipment is used to adverse conditions, on site in wet or damp areas for instance or where voltages are necessarily more lethal.

Read this guide, know your ABC, follow these simple safety rules in your working situation and if in doubt about the safety of any electrical equipment - report it, get an electrician or the maintenance contractors to repair the defective item IMMEDIATELY!

DO NOT LET A LIVE TAKE A LIFE - YOURS OR ANYONE ELSE'S.

Always check for defective plugs, cables and sockets before using any electrical equipment!

Be sure that cables are long enough to reach your working place without straining or pulling!

Correct power supply is important for all equipment - check that it is adequate! – 110 volt only

Disconnection from the mains supply is important for all equipment - check that is adequate!

240-Volt equipment can only be used when a method statement is in place for use and an RCD is fitted between the equipment and the power supply.

ELECTRICITY KILLS - NEVER FORGET IT

Fuses should always be appropriate to the equipment to which they are fitted!

Get all blown fuses replaced promptly and correctly. Never 'MAKE DO'!!

Have all the 'EMERGENCY STOP' switches on all machinery tested regularly!

Installation of all electrical wiring requires the attention of a qualified contractor!

I have given the above talk to all men under my control.

Signed:

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Date 24-01-07

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Jointed lengths of cable should always be attached by the proper contractors and NEVER with insulating tape!

Keep electrical circuits in good repair with regular checks by an approved contractor!

Lighting sockets should NEVER be used by electrical equipment!

Mains cables and flexes should never trail across the floor, where they may get caught or pulled!

New electrical equipment should be thoroughly tested before it goes into service!

Overloading sockets with plugs and adapters is dangerous. Only ONE appliance per power socket is the rule!

Portable power tools must never be used near flammable vapours or gases!

Qualified help should be sought immediately on ALL types of electrical problems!

Report all defective tools and equipment!

See that all electrical connections are the correct ones!

Tampering with the internal workings of all types of electrical equipment and machinery should be avoided at all costs!

Under no circumstances should you touch plugs, sockets or electrical equipment with wet hands!

Very worn, twisted crushed or kinked cables should be discarded and replaced!

Water should be kept away from all electrical equipment and tools should not be used in wet or damp conditions!

Extra care should always be taken when attaching plugs to be sure that all wires are well connected to the right terminals and that the flex is held securely.

You are responsible for seeing that all of these safety rules are observed to ensure the safety of yourself and others!

Zzzzzz! Sleep easy in you bed if you have read every one of these safety rules and are always alert to the dangers of electricity!

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