

General Electrical Safety Awareness

Introduction

Electricity can cause shock, burns, fire, and arc flash. Recognizing damaged equipment and respecting electrical boundaries helps prevent injuries. Awareness training does not qualify a person to perform electrical work.

Hazards & Controls

Inspect equipment before use. Keep covers in place and report exposed wiring, hot plugs, burning odors, or repeated trips. Do not overload outlets or defeat protective devices.

Deenergize before exposure unless the applicable rule permits otherwise. Only qualified, authorized personnel may test or work on exposed electrical parts using the required procedure. Keep others away from damaged equipment.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

Which warning signs require us to stop and report an electrical problem?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Training (1910.332)

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Meeting Record & Sign-In

General Electrical Safety Awareness

Company: _____ Date: _____

Jobsite: _____ Presenter: _____

Time / duration: _____ Crew / shift: _____

Site-specific hazards and controls discussed

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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date

Extension Cord Safety

Introduction

Extension cords need the correct rating, conductor size, length, and environmental suitability for the load. A damaged or undersized cord can overheat or expose energized conductors.

Hazards & Controls

Inspect cord sets and plugs before use on each shift as applicable. Remove damaged cords from service. Protect them from traffic, sharp edges, doors, and trip hazards; do not carry tools or pull plugs by the cord.

Use the required grounding-type, hard-use construction cords. Never remove grounding pins or use adapters that interrupt grounding. Avoid improvised repairs and overloaded daisy chains; follow reel instructions about unwinding under load.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

How will we select and route a cord for this tool and location?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Wiring Methods and Components (1926.405)

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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date

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Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

Introduction

A GFCI detects a current imbalance and interrupts the circuit. It reduces certain ground-fault shock risks but does not prevent every shock, overload, or electrical injury.

Hazards & Controls

Use the protection required for the circuit and location. For covered construction receptacles, OSHA permits GFCIs or a compliant assured equipment grounding conductor program. Site requirements or other applicable rules may be stricter.

Test and reset devices as directed by the manufacturer and site program. Remove failed devices from service; never bypass protection. A trip requires investigation of the cause, not repeated resetting. Keep overload protection and required grounding intact.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

What protection is required here, and how do we verify the GFCI works?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Wiring Design and Protection (1926.404)

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Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

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Lockout-Tagout (LOTO) - Electrical Systems

Introduction

Electrical isolation prevents exposure to unexpected energization and stored energy. A stop button, selector switch, or an apparently dead circuit is not proof of a safe condition.

Hazards & Controls

Follow the applicable electrical lockout procedure: identify and disconnect sources, apply required locks and tags, and control stored energy. A qualified person verifies deenergization with suitable test equipment, including possible backfeed or induced voltage.

Follow the required tester checks and safe testing practices. Coordinate affected workers, group work, and shift changes. Remove locks and restore power only through the authorized procedure; any removal by another person requires the specific employer exception procedure.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

Who verifies deenergization, and what other sources could energize this equipment?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Selection and Use of Work Practices (1910.333)

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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date

Temporary Power and Jobsite Distribution

Introduction

Temporary power still needs approved equipment and a planned installation. Weather, construction traffic, damaged enclosures, and changing loads can create shock and fire hazards.

Hazards & Controls

Have authorized personnel establish the distribution system, correct circuit protection, grounding, and required ground-fault protection. Keep panel access clear and protect wiring and connections from damage and environmental exposure.

Inspect the system under the site program. Keep enclosures closed, identify circuits, and report missing covers, damage, or overheating. Do not make unauthorized connections or alterations. Remove temporary wiring when its permitted purpose is complete.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

Who controls changes to this system, and where is its safe disconnect?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Wiring Methods and Components (1926.405)

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Tool and Equipment Grounding

Introduction

Equipment grounding provides a low-impedance fault-current path back to the source so protective devices can operate. It is not simply a path into the earth and does not replace GFCI protection.

Hazards & Controls

Keep grounding conductors and required ground pins intact. Use compatible plugs and receptacles without grounding-defeating adapters. Remove damaged equipment from service; continuity testing must be done by authorized personnel under the applicable program.

Approved double-insulated tools may be used without equipment grounding where the rules allow. Verify their markings and condition rather than adding a makeshift ground. Generator grounding and bonding depend on the configuration; follow the approved setup.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

How can we identify whether this tool requires grounding or is approved double-insulated?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Wiring Design and Protection (1926.404)

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Tool and Equipment Grounding

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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date

Wet Conditions and Electrical Hazards

Introduction

Moisture and conductive surfaces increase shock risk. Equipment and cords used where workers may contact water or other conductive liquids must be approved for those conditions.

Hazards & Controls

Keep hands dry when connecting or disconnecting energized plugs. Use required GFCI protection, suitable enclosures, and protected connections. Ordinary rubber footwear, work gloves, and a dry-looking mat do not establish electrical protection.

If equipment becomes wet or damaged, stop use and keep clear. Have power safely isolated before handling, cleaning, or inspection; do not reach into water to retrieve energized equipment. Return it to service only after authorized evaluation.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

How will we isolate power safely if this area or tool becomes wet?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Use of Equipment (1910.334)

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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date

Working Near Overhead Power Lines

Introduction

Plan work before moving ladders, lifts, cranes, long materials, or vehicles near overhead lines. Treat lines as energized unless the utility or responsible authority has established otherwise.

Hazards & Controls

Have the employer determine the applicable clearance and controls for the equipment, task, and voltage. A universal 10-foot rule is insufficient: cranes have specific planning, clearance, and encroachment-prevention requirements. Arrange utility coordination and required deenergizing or protective measures.

Establish exclusion areas and trained spotters where required; a spotter or fiberglass ladder does not authorize entry into a danger zone. If contact occurs, keep others away, call emergency services and the utility, and follow the equipment-specific emergency plan. Avoid creating a path to ground.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

What clearance and emergency procedure apply to this equipment and these lines?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Crane Power Line Safety (up to 350 kV) (1926.1408)

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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date

Arc Flash Awareness

Introduction

An electrical arc can release intense heat, pressure, molten metal, and sound. Shock and arc-flash hazards need separate evaluation; equipment voltage alone does not establish the required protection.

Hazards & Controls

Use the employer electrical safety program to assess the task, establish boundaries, and select controls. Deenergize when required. Qualification and PPE alone do not justify energized work; authorization must meet the applicable conditions.

Keep covers and doors secured as required, maintain equipment, and observe signs and barricades. Only qualified personnel perform permitted exposed energized work. Select arc-rated protection for the assessed exposure; ordinary clothing or rubber gloves alone may not protect against an arc.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

Who sets our electrical boundaries and determines protection for this task?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Safeguards for Personnel Protection (1910.335)

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Electrical PPE and Insulated Tools

Introduction

Electrical protective equipment and insulated tools must match the assessed hazards and be maintained in reliable condition. Rubber-coated handles and ordinary work gloves are not voltage-rated protection.

Hazards & Controls

Qualified personnel use the required voltage-rated tools and protective equipment. Inspect before use and remove suspect items. Protect insulating surfaces during transport and storage; use required leather protectors and other compatible equipment as applicable.

Inspect electrical insulating equipment before each day of use and after potentially damaging incidents; include an air test for insulating gloves. Follow required electrical retest intervals and event-triggered testing. Arc protection and shock protection are different selections, and neither replaces required isolation.

Follow the employer's electrical safety program and the requirements for the task and industry. These awareness notes do not qualify or authorize anyone to perform electrical work.

Safety Reminders

Stop and report damaged equipment or unsafe conditions. In an electrical emergency, keep clear, summon help, and have power safely isolated. Never touch a person or equipment that may still be energized.

Engagement Questions

How will we confirm our PPE ratings, inspection condition, and electrical test status?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Electrical Safety

OSHA: Electrical Protective Equipment (1910.137)

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