

Toolbox Talk Week 37

Electrical Safety

Precautions for avoiding electrical shocks include, but not limited to the following:

General safety precautions:

Safety to personnel and safe operation of machines and tools should be of utmost importance in all considerations of using electricity on the jobsite. Electrical hazards are among the most frequently cited OSHA violations.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters:

The GFCI is a fast-acting device that senses a small current leakage to ground. Within 1/40 of a second it shuts off the electricity and "interrupts" the current flow. It provides effective protection against shocks and electrocution. All equipment (saws, drills, extension cords, etc.) that is capable of being plugged into a 110-volt receptacle shall have a GFCI device attached before the tool and/or extension cord.



For additional information refer to the Weigand Safety Manual located in the job trailer.



OSHA Subpart K



Extension Cords:

Ensure that cords do not get pinched or exposed to a sharp edge. This condition could then expose energized electrical conductors inside the cord that could short out, or even electrocute a person if they contact the damaged area. Inspect extension cords for frays or have faulty plugs, or that are missing ground prongs. Such cords should be removed from service at once. Do not use an extension cord that has a lower rating; do not plug one extension cord into another.

Electrical Fires:

On construction sites, an electrical fire that may occur when portable tools overload a power source. If possible to do safely, immediately disconnect the tool or power cord from the power source. This usually results in the electrical fire being extinguished. If the electrical fire has not been extinguished, a trained employee can use a Class "C" or multi-purpose fire extinguisher to PASS over the fire. **PASS - Pull Aim, Spray and Sweep**