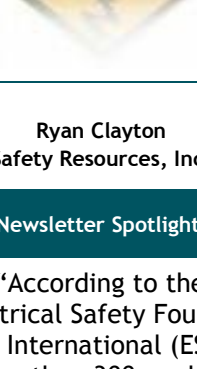


Electrical Safety Month

May 2011

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), more than 300 workers die each year due to electrical hazards. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and during this month Safety Resources would like to give you some quick tips and facts to maintain a safe workplace.



Always make sure electric tools are properly grounded and/or double insulated. The double insulated tool must have an undamaged outer case and be clearly labeled as "double insulated" by the manufacturer. Power tools should be in good working condition with no visible damage to the wires.

Extension cord injuries make up for approximately 4,000 emergency room visits including lacerations, fractures and electrical burns. When using Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI), power will be shut down in less than 1/40th of a second when interruption in the circuit occurs.

GFCI saves lives. Ensuring that your extension cords and tools are equipped with GFCI will minimize electrocutions. Rerouting cords to reduce slip trips and falls will contribute to a lower number of emergency room visits.

The lockout/tagout process safeguards employees from the unexpected startup of machinery and equipment while also preventing the release of hazardous energy during service or maintenance activities. By complying with OSHA's lockout/tagout procedures, many fatalities and thousands of injuries are prevented each year. As of 2010, lockout/tagout in the general industry ranks number six on OSHA's Top Ten Most Frequently Cited Violations.

An arc flash is an electrical discharge that uses the air as a conductor, exploding from a high voltage source to another conductor or ground nearby. The release can be 5,000 degrees or more, melting nearby metals and damaging the electric circuits involved. The brightness, heat and force of the arc flash can cause damage to the human body. Wearing the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) can prevent unnecessary injuries while on the job. While PPE should always be the last line of defense, wearing proper equipment (i.e. flame-resistant shirts and pants, safety glasses, face shield, etc.) can help protect workers in the event of a momentary electric arc, flash fire or exposure to energized equipment.

De-energize all equipment. Working on energized equipment greatly increases the risk of injury and death. Power down whenever possible to ensure a safe environment.

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Newsletter Spotlight

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