

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Electric Shock Injuries

Just about everyone that does any kind of maintenance, manufacturing or construction encounters electrical hazards. Electricity is a physical force that is invisible, and it can do irreversible damage. Just about everyone gets shocked at one point or another, but most are lucky because they don't receive an injury. But what about the workers that aren't lucky? Can you be shocked to death by only 120 volts? YES! Take all electricity, no matter the voltage seriously.

### WORKSAFE TIPS

#### ELECTRICAL SAFETY REVIEW

Shock happens when electricity goes to ground through your body.

- About 5 employees are electrocuted every week.
- Causes 12% of workplace deaths.
- Takes very little electricity to cause harm.
- There's also the risk of fire.

Low amounts of amperage can cause severe injuries.

#### What could happen?

Burns – tissue is super-heated, resulting in damage

Falls – from ladders, platforms, scaffolds

Tissue damage – skin and muscle damage

Internal injuries to organs and tissue

Death

An electrical shock is received when electrical currents pass through the body.

You will get an electrical shock if a part of your body completes an electrical circuit by:

- Touching a live wire and an electrical ground, or
- Touching a live wire and another wire at a different voltage.

#### BURNS

- Most common shock-related injury.
- Occurs when you touch electrical wiring or equipment that is improperly used or maintained.
- Typically burns happen to hands.
- Burns are very serious injuries that need immediate attention. Worker will need skin grafts & rehabilitation.
- Employees in elevated locations who experience a shock may also fall, resulting in serious injury or death.

