

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

### Workplace Safety Tips

Worksite locations for electrical contractors provide several potential hazards that can cause serious injury. FFVA Mutual Loss Control consultants can assist in evaluating workplace exposures and provide appropriate loss control recommendations.

#### Electrical Contractor-Workplace Exposures

- Slips, trips, falls
- Electrical burns
- Electrocution
- Eye injuries
- Back strains

#### Developing A Loss Control Program

To successfully implement a workplace safety program, management must be willing to reduce and eliminate workplace injuries. There has to be a 100% commitment to establish an injury-free working environment.

#### Electrical Contractor Safety Tips

- While working on new construction jobsites, good housekeeping practices should be followed to reduce potential slips, trips, and falls. A clean work area should be maintained daily.
- A safety training program should be in place for all new hires.
- An experienced employee should accompany new employees for at least sixty days to minimize new employee injuries.
- All apprentice electricians should be encouraged to enroll in a journeyman program.
- All employees should be required to wear the proper personal protective equipment such as hard hats, safety glasses, gloves, and proper foot wear.
- Jobsite foremen and supervisors should be certified in CPR and First Aid.
- Operators of forklifts, bucket trucks, and scissor lifts are required to be properly trained and certified. Annual refresher training should be required.
- Workers should be trained in the proper use of hand and powered tools.
- When working with live circuits, workers should be instructed on proper use of rubber-insulated gloves, blankets, masks, and shields.
- All ladders should meet OSHA safety requirements.
- Ladders should be inspected daily for wear and possible fractures.
- All employees should be trained in proper placement and positioning of ladders to avoid potential falls.

#### Lifting Safety Tips

- All employees should be properly trained in lifting and carrying materials to avoid muscle strain and back injuries.
- Proper lifting includes:
  - Always check the weight of the object to be lifted. It's okay to ask for help. Lift heavy objects mechanically whenever possible.
  - Place feet close to the load, bend knees, get a firm grip, and lift straight up keeping the load close to the body.

- Make sure there is a clear path to the final destination.
- Set the load down slowly, bend at the knees and keep back straight.
- If working on a commercial jobsite, all employees are required to follow the safety procedures of the General Contractor.

### **Fleet Safety Tips**

- Only certified/authorized drivers should be permitted to drive company vehicles.
- Motor vehicle reports should be obtained from the fleet insurance carrier every six months.
- Authorized drivers should have an annual defensive driving course.
- Criteria for determining an adverse driving record should be developed such as number of points per year, DUI, and chargeable accidents.
- Vehicle inspections should be the responsibility of the driver. Documented inspection forms should be used.
- The maintenance department should have authority to remove a vehicle from service until recommended repairs are made.
- Travel to jobsite in personal vehicles should be discouraged. Use of personal vehicles creates the potential for an automobile accident and a subsequent workers' compensation claim.

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