



The Truth About Electrical Injuries

A joint initiative of ...



**Electrical & Utilities Safety
Association of Ontario**



Workplace Safety &
Insurance Board



Commission de la sécurité
professionnelle et de l'assurance
contre les accidents du travail



Ontario

Canada

The Facts ...

In the last two years alone, hundreds of workers have suffered electrical contact resulting in burns, loss of fingers, limbs, blindness, and even death.

Fact...

A plant employee received an electrical shock and burns to both hands due to im-proper-lockout procedures.

Fact...

A dump truck driver received an electrical shock after his dump truck became energized when he backed it into a 4,160 volt hydro line.

Fact...

Near fatal electrical contact occurred to a propane gas company employee when the boom holding the tank came into contact with a 4,800 volt hydro line.

Fact...

A water technician was in a life threatening situation when removing a water meter. The service pipe was energized and the street pipe was grounded.

Fact...

A person trimming a tree received third degree burns and his heart stopped when the branch he was cutting made contact with a 16,000 volt hydro line.

Fact...

One worker was killed and two seriously injured when they rolled their scaffold into a high voltage conductor.

All of these injuries could have been prevented. . .

Causes of Electrical Injury ...

- lack of knowledge, education
- curiosity
- accidental contact
- unseen hazards
- carelessness
- by-passing safe procedures
- poor work practices, lack of training
- rushing to meet deadlines, unclear job procedures
- incomplete planning
- PPE (personal protective equipment) is not available, not used, or misused

Electricity can hurt you by:

- Electrical contact
- Flash
- Fire and explosion

Statistics

From January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2005, 922 workers came in contact with electricity and were injured seriously enough to lose time from work.

Another 33 workers died from electrocution, electric shock or electrical burns.

**Taking electricity
for granted
could be fatal ...**

You Must Understand ...

- ❑ IRS (Internal Responsibility System)
- ❑ when electrical work must be done by a licenced or qualified worker
- ❑ the Occupational Health & Safety Act and relevant regulations
- ❑ effects of electricity on the body
- ❑ step and touch potential
- ❑ electrical theory
- ❑ safe limits of approach
- ❑ hazard identification
- ❑ lockout procedures
- ❑ job planning
- ❑ correct polarity

You Must Remember ...

***Electricity is everywhere,
it's up to you to:***

Be Aware!

Be Informed!

Be Responsible!

Prevention is the Key ...

There are a multitude of things to be aware of and use when you are working around electricity:

- appropriate training
- appropriate signage
- proper equipment for the job
- fix or replace faulty tools & equipment
- appropriate fuses
- GFCI's (ground fault circuit interrupters)
- grounding and bonding procedures
- PPE (personal protective equipment)
- restrict access to unauthorized persons
- call before you dig
- correct polarity

You may contact any of the organizations listed on the back of this brochure.

We are partnering to coordinate and plan programs, activities and services that will meet your injury prevention needs.



**Electrical & Utilities Safety
Association of Ontario**

The Electrical & Utilities Safety Association provides a variety of electrical safety and awareness programs for electrical and non-electrical workers.

Phone: 1-800-263-5024 –
www.eusa.on.ca



**Workplace Safety &
Insurance Board**



**Commission de la sécurité
professionnelle et de l'assurance
contre les accidents du travail**

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board can help you analyze your injury record to determine claim costs and develop a prevention strategy based on your past experience.

Phone: 1-800-663-6639 –
www.wsib.on.ca



Ontario

The Ministry of Labour can help you understand the legislation and reinforce the requirements.

Check the provincial listings of the blue pages of your local telephone book for the nearest office or visit their Web site at **www.labour.gov.on.ca**

Canada

The Labour Program of Human Resources and Social Development Canada can help you understand federal legislation and reinforce the requirements for federally regulated industries.

Check the federal listings of the blue pages of your local telephone book for the nearest office or visit their Web site at **www.hrsdc.gc.ca**