

WORK CLOSE TO ELECTRIC LINES OR INVOLVING ELECTRIC TOOLS

Potential Risks: Electric shock, Electrocution, Fibrillation, Asphyxiation, Electric Arc, Burns

Electricity can shock, paralyze muscles, severely burn or cause death. Good working practices can greatly contribute to the safety of persons conducting tasks near power lines. As contractors, we must ensure the safety of workers on our construction sites by recognizing the hazards and minimizing the risks.

Before attempting to rescue a person suffering from shock, make sure there is no danger for your safety and do not attempt to move a wire that fell on the victim until it is confirmed that it has been de-energized.

Objective

This policy establishes the rules that must be applied during work close to electrical lines or involving electric tools in order to prevent an incident due to the uncontrolled release of electrical energy.

Scope

This policy applies to any person under the authority of, and conducting any associated work for, the benefit of EBC or its subsidiaries.

At all times, this policy and procedure should be diligently applied with professionalism and respect for others. In case of doubt or conflict in its application, managers have the responsibility to contact EBC Human Resources management for guidance in its implementation.

Distribution

This policy must be provided to all persons, working both on and off project sites, during their orientation session.

LEGEND

-  The behavior or activity required by the organization.
-  **Important non-compliance for the organization**

Work close to power lines

Planning

-  The employer must ensure that before starting work, to go to the scene and conduct a visual inspection of the site for the presence of power lines. They must make sure that they know the voltage in the line(s) by contacting the electricity supplier.
-  When there are electrical lines, they must be clearly indicated on a plan. A specific work method, including mobile equipment positioning, the load as well as its grounding when appropriate etc., must be established.
-  No one can perform work when a part of a load, a section of scaffolding, a piece of machinery or a person risks approaching an electrical line within range of the specified safe limits of approach.

- If work has to be done closer than the safe limits of approach, the employer must obtain an agreement from the electricity supplier and follow local regulations for required action. The employer's safe work method will be established in conjunction with the electricity supplier, such as de-energizing the line, installation of insulators, or temporary removal of lines.

Organization

- Extendable production equipment (with booms or masts) must be equipped with a range limiting system that supplies the operator precise indication on the positioning of the machine if they want to be able to enter into zones approaching risk.
- An employer who performs work with the help of mobile equipment, must make sure that the equipment is in good condition and that employees operate it according to the established work method.

Control

- The employer must make sure to identify their work zone according to the regulations.
- ⊘ The operator must make sure that their range limiting system is working well before beginning work.

Work Involving Electrical Tools

- ⊘ No live-line work is authorized at EBC.
- Despite the preceding, any activity that involves working on partially energized equipment for testing or "troubleshooting" can be done by developing a safe work method prior to starting.
- All electrical tools should be double insulated or have a grounded 3-prong plug.
- Faulty power tools and extension cords should be immediately removed from service
- ⊘ Only qualified personnel can perform maintenance of electrical tools or equipment.
- Using a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) is required in damp conditions or for powering electrical tools or equipment in buildings and other structures under construction or demolition.
- Extension cords must be physically protected or elevated and not trailing through water

If the rules of the main contractor, safety code or any regulation are different than those described above, the strictest shall apply.

Roles and Responsibilities

For the employee, worker, subcontractor, etc.:

Everyone has the obligation to respect and enforce this policy and procedure.

The Manager

The manager ensures compliance of this policy for the staff under their responsibility and ensures that the policy is known by all. In case of conflict, they shall communicate with the human resources department.

Human Resources Management

Human Resources management is responsible for ensuring the updates and distribution of the current policy. They must also oversee administration and determine disciplinary measures deemed appropriate for enforcement.

Disciplinary Measures

The person who does not respect the policy mentioned above will receive:

1. A verbal warning stating the correction(s) to be made, documented in the form of a correction or reprimand notice.
2. In the case of a repeated offence, a written warning is again written in the form of a correction or reprimand notice and is given to the person and to their superior.
3. Subsequently, if there is a recurrence, a write-up along with stricter disciplinary action resulting in an expulsion from the workplace for 1-2 workdays will be given.
4. In case of any further recurrence, a third written warning will be provided that can result in dismissal or expulsion from the project or a definite period of time.
5. Special Case:

When a person breaches a description for an **Important organization non-compliance**

In this specific case, the first notice will correspond directly to step number 3 of disciplinary measures and the person will be expelled for a duration of 2 work days.

Definitions

Vehicle: Any mode of transportation that moves by a driving force.

Production Equipment: Any equipment used in the production of a project, such as: heavy trucks, excavators, cranes, bulldozers, loaders, etc. excluding light vehicles such as pick-up trucks, Argo's, ATV's etc.

Electricity Supplier: A company that produces, transports and distributes electricity.