



Hanover County Safety & Risk Management Communication

Safety & Risk Tip of the Week:

No matter what industry or environment you work in, it is very likely that you will encounter potential electrical hazards on a regular basis. But do you know how to address electrical hazards to avoid potential shock? Do you know what is considered an electrical hazard?

Knowing how to [identify electrical hazards](#) in your working environment and how to properly use electrical equipment will help you avoid unwanted shock and injury.

Electrical Safety Do's:

- Plug power equipment into wall outlets with their power switches in the “off” position
- Unplug electrical equipment by grasping the plug and pulling – don’t pull or jerk the cord to unplug the equipment
- Always look for UL (Underwriters Laboratory) on the label of electrical equipment
- Know the location of electrical circuit breaker panels that control equipment and lighting in your area and be able to identify circuits and equipment disconnects on those panels. Don’t store any materials within three feet of any electrical panel or electrical equipment, permanently or temporarily
- Unplug and attach a “Danger - Do No Operate” tag or equivalent on any electrical equipment causing sparks
- Check outlets for missing or damaged parts, and avoid plugging equipment into defective outlets
- Check for frayed, cracked or exposed wiring on equipment cords

Electrical Safety Don'ts:

- Don’t use extension cords in office areas – limit extension cord use to maintenance personnel
- Don’t use “cheater plugs” – extension cords with junction box receptacle ends – or other similar equipment
- Don’t use electrical equipment or appliances that are not properly grounded
- Don’t drape power cords over hot pipes, radiators or sharp objects

Bring your electrical safety knowledge home! Potential home electrical hazards include:

- Dimming lights, circuit breaker trips or blown fuses
- Overloading electrical outlets with multiple power strips
- Using light bulbs with a higher wattage for the lighting fixture’s maximum allowed wattage
- Using old or worn electrical cords
- Placing electrical cords under furniture or attaching them to walls with nails or staples
- Outlets that are not properly covered with faceplates
- Outlets in bathrooms or kitchens (near water) that do not have a ground fault circuit interrupter

Electricity is a part of our lives and helpful in so many ways. We just need to know how to work with it safely!

Safety & Risk Fact of the Week:

The effects can of electrical shock can be deadly. Below is a listing of the different levels of electrical current and the reactions they can cause:

- 1-2 milliamps: Threshold of sensation
- 3-8 mA: Mild to painful shock
- 10-15 mA: Cannot release hand grip
- 20-60 mA: Severe shock and breathing difficulties
- 70-200 mA: Risk of death from heart failure
- 400-900 mA: Burns at exit, entry points
- > 1 amp: Major burns

Safety & Risk Spotlight:

September is Emergency Planning Awareness Month! This week, our resource spotlight highlights information provided by the National Safety Council on Hurricanes

- [Hurricanes \(Five Minute Talk\)](#)