

Toolbox Talk Training: Basic Electrical Safety – Responding to Electrical Emergencies

Being prepared for electrical emergencies can save lives. Today, we'll review how to respond safely to common electrical hazards that may occur at work, at home, or while traveling.

- **Downed Power Lines** – Always stay far away from downed electrical lines. Never attempt to walk, drive, or move objects over them, and do not try to remove lines from rooftops, vehicles, trees, or roads. Power lines may still be energized even if they are not sparking or moving. Keep a safe distance and immediately call 911 so trained emergency personnel can respond.

If power lines fall onto your vehicle, remain inside the vehicle whenever possible until emergency responders arrive. Exiting the vehicle while touching metal parts and the ground at the same time could result in electrocution.

Also remember that water can conduct electricity. If a live power line is in contact with a puddle, pond, or flooded area, the water itself may become energized. Never enter the water to help someone or attempt to move around the line.

- **Helping an Electrocution Victim** – Your first reaction may be to rush to the victim, but safety comes first. Immediately direct someone to call 911 and notify emergency responders.

Before touching the victim, carefully check whether they are still in contact with an energized source. Look for electrical wires in their hands, beneath them, or touching any part of their body. If possible, disconnect the power source or shut off the electricity.

If the power cannot be turned off, use a non-conductive object such as a fiberglass pole or a dry wooden board to separate the person from the electrical source. Never use metal or wet materials.

Electrical shock can disrupt the heart and breathing. Once the victim is clear of the electrical source, check for breathing and a pulse. Administer CPR or rescue breathing if necessary and if you are trained to do so.

Electrocution injuries may also include burns, fractures, bleeding, or bruising caused by falls or muscle contractions during the shock.

Are there any other electrical emergency situations we should discuss to help everyone stay prepared and safe? Thank you for attending today's toolbox talk. Please remember to sign the training certification form before leaving so you receive credit for your attendance.

