

TOOLBOX TALK #25

PROTECT WORKERS FROM ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

A high number of electrical-related worker fatalities occur among construction and maintenance workers, according to OSHA, and contact with overhead power lines is the culprit in 78% of those fatalities.

One reason why? Normally, tradespeople are not electricians and often don't have the proper training to protect themselves. And 70% of all electrical-related worker fatalities can be traced to non-electrical occupations, OSHA says.



Help protect your workers. Share with them these electrical safety tips from Electrical Safety Foundation International:

- Stay at least 10 feet away from all power lines when working. Same goes for the tools you're using.
- Locate and identify utilities such as overhead power lines before starting work.
- Keep overhead power lines in sight when operating or moving equipment.
- Make sure portable electric tools are grounded or double insulated.
- Always use ground fault protection.
- Know and maintain safe distances from power lines:
 - Less than 50kV: 10 feet away
 - For every kV over 50: Add 0.4 inches to the 10 feet.
- For cranes, call and verify voltage, then:
 - Less than 50kV 10 feet away
 - 50-200kV 15 feet away
 - 200-350kV 20 feet away
 - 350-500kV 25 feet away
 - 500-750kV 35 feet away
 - 750-1000kV 45 feet away
 - Over 1000kV Consult a professional engineer for set back