

Toolbox Talk

Electrical safety

Electricity cannot be seen, felt, smelt or heard and may only become apparent when somebody touches it.

There is a risk of electrocution from the following:

- Contact or arcing with live parts of an electrical distribution system.
- Contact or arcing with overhead power lines.
- Contact with underground cables.
- Faulty electrical equipment, including hand tools.

Faulty equipment may create heat or sparks leading to ignition of combustible material.

Electricity travels at the speed of light, more than 186,000 miles per second – do you?

Safe electrical work practices:

For most restoration sites, the electrical supply will be provided by small generators to power tools and equipment. The siting of any generator should minimise nuisance caused by noise and fumes.

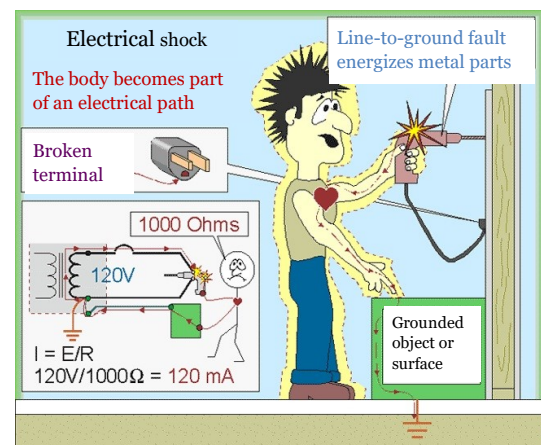
Electrical tools and equipment used on site should have a 110volt rating or be battery operated.

Working on or near live electrical circuits and equipment should only be carried out once the risk to safety have been assessed and control measures put in place.

It is essential that hidden electrical wiring is located before drilling or cutting into surfaces. If competent, use a suitable cable detector, but be aware that some cable detectors will not find a wire carrying a small or no current. Use a visual inspection to try to locate cable routes and remember to check both sides of walls.

Electrical tools and equipment should be selected that is safe and suitable for the use it is intended and the environment it is used in.

Do not use faulty electrical tools. If you see any faulty tools or electrical equipment report it to your Camp Leader.



Dealing with electric shocks:

If the casualty is in contact with a potentially live source of electricity, switch off the power supply if possible and shout for help. Do not touch the casualty with bare hands, but move them away from the electrical source using insulated material, such as a wooden broom handle. Seek prompt help from a First Aider and call the emergency services to get qualified medical help.