



Live Circuits Can Kill You

Electricity powers our homes, it powers our hand tools, and it provides power to lights when we flip a switch. But what we can't forget is that electricity also has the power to injure or kill if we don't respect it and work safely around it. Electrical hazards include shocks, burns, explosions, fires, fall from elevations, and electrocutions.

Whether it's a 110-volt wire in a residence or a 230,000-volt transmission line, always behave as if all electrical circuits are energized until you have a qualified electrician determine that they are de-energized and locked out.

Following is a list of safety tips to keep in mind when working around electrical wiring and tools:

- First, like every other task, wear all the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Remove watches, rings, and other jewelry that can become electrical conductors.
- Inspect all electrical equipment for insulation breaks, cracks, frayed cords, missing ground prongs, and exposed wires.
- Remove defective electrical equipment from service immediately. Tag it: "Do Not Use".
- Always use tools and equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use double-insulated tools and equipment. Disconnect power tools when servicing or repairing them and when changing bits and cutters.
- Don't use electric tools in wet locations.
- Do not modify tools or cords.
- Never work on an energized (live) electrical circuit.
- Use locks and tags (LOTO) before working on any electrical circuit.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- Unplug cords from receptacles by pulling on the plugs, not the cords.
- Do not remove ground prongs from cord- and plug-connected equipment or extension cords.
- Make sure all electrical extension cords are the right size and rating for the job.
- Look for overhead power lines and stay at least 10 feet away from them.
- Be careful when using equipment that can contact power lines, such as cranes, backhoes, and ladders.
- Use non-conductive wood, plastic, or fiberglass ladders when working near power lines.
- Contact utility companies to find buried power line locations before digging.
- Leave electrical repairs to qualified personnel.



SAFETY REMINDER

Electrical safety is achievable. It takes diligence, personal commitment, and training.