

Take control

17.05.07

Heat, radiation and electricity

Contact with electricity >

This information bulletin was produced to assist in the prevention of workplace injury and disease. By identifying causes, and assessing and controlling risks, employers and workers can take control of their own health and safety in the workplace.

Areas in the workplace which could indicate there is a risk of such occurrences happening

Some things to look for include:

- electrical equipment and appliances in a state of disrepair;
- inadequate training, education and supervision in the safe use and operation of electrical equipment or appliances;
- trimming trees or operating mobile plant and equipment close to overhead power lines;
- excavating without first checking whether or not underground cables exist;
- extension cables which are looped together and not properly secured together;
- machinery running over electrical cables; and
- electrical work carried out by unauthorised electrical installers or repairers.

Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- electrical control cabinets are kept locked;
- regular inspections, testing and servicing is carried out of all electrical equipment and appliances, and that such work is carried out by suitably qualified people;
- residual current devices are fitted to electrical circuits;
- equipment fitted with its own 'safety switch' is purchased;
- employees are trained in the safe use of electrical equipment and appliances;
- develop and implement safe operating procedures for tasks involving electricity;
- 'power points' are fitted in convenient places to minimise the need to use extension cords;
- machinery does not run over unprotected cables;
- enough 'power points' are fitted in work areas so that there is no need to use 'double adaptors' and so on;

putting safety first >



- lock out systems are in place when maintenance works are carrying out repairs on plant or equipment; and
- PAWA is always contacted for advice on work near power lines.

To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

Specific regulations to note in respect of this topic are:

Regulation 62	Electrical Installations and Equipment
Regulation 63	Work in proximity to Exposed Live Equipment
Regulation 64	Electrical Installations on Construction Sites
Regulation 65	Residual Current Devices

[Australian Standards](#) are available from the Territory Construction Association, phone 8922 9666. Australian Standards can be viewed online by visiting the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, phone 8999 7177.

Australian Standards applicable to this topic include:

AS 2550	Cranes – Safe use
AS 60479	Effects of current on human beings and livestock – General aspects
AS 2053	Conduits and fittings for electrical installations – General requirements
AS 3100	Approval and test specification – General requirements for electrical equipment

NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.

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