

STAY SAFE BULLETIN

General Electrical Safety

Electrically powered devices and equipment can be encountered in most workplaces, as can the power lines, cords and distribution systems used to provide power to these devices. Lightning is a common environmental electrical hazard.

In Canada the Canadian Electric Code Parts 1 & 2 (C22.1 & C22.2) applies to electrical equipment, installations and hazardous locations. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has issued CSA Z462 "Workplace Electricity Safety Standard." While not the law, this standard has been adopted by many companies as a best practice and is especially applicable if you employ electrical workers, or workers who are exposed to electrical hazards.

All employees must receive basic electrical safety training. Conduct a hazard assessment to determine the hazardous classification of your work area and only use electrical equipment approved for that classification.

Design, Installation, Maintenance, and Electrical Equipment

- Electrical work should only be performed by competent electrical journeymen.
- All unsafe or defective electrical equipment, appliances or lines are to be tagged, removed from service, rendered inoperable and reported.
- If used in a wet location, or outdoors, all portable electrical equipment must be protected by an approved ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)
- Power supply cords must be approved for their intended use and location, use approved plugs and attachments, not exceed the maximum current (amp) rating, be protected from damage and have an approved GFCI.

Power Lines

- Work near power lines must have a hazard assessment completed by a competent person and all control measures must be confirmed and in-place.
- Before any ground disturbance occurs all likely underground power lines must be located and marked.
- Know and follow the safe approach limits for overhead power lines.

Electrical Storms

Environment Canada now states that if you can hear thunder you are within striking distance of lightning and should take cover. You should stay sheltered for 30 min. after the last lightning strike in your area.

Always assume that electrical equipment, lines, facilities, equipment and enclosures are live in order to stay alive!



*"In a moment of decision,
the best thing you can do is
the right thing to do. The
worst thing you can do is
nothing."*

Theodore Roosevelt

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