

Safe Working on and next to electrical Apparatus

Your people must be invested in safety more than anything else that they do for you and your organisation.

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What I will cover today

- Importance of electrical safety rules
- How to stay safe working near electrical apparatus
- How things go wrong
- How do we prevent incidents
- Human behavioral factors
- Developing a safety culture & safety leadership

Importance of electrical safety rules

- They are effectively blood rules
- The safety rules and procedures when followed will help you go home safe every day
- Most incidents and fatalities involve breach of safety rules
- Short cuts can affect your workmates not just you

How to stay safe working near electrical apparatus

- Follow your safety rules!
- If you are unsure stop work until you can find out how to complete your task safely
- Never approach electrical equipment unless you are authorised to do so and it is essential for your task
- Use your senses: can you feel unusual heat, strange smell, it looks different?
- Look above, look below, look behind, look inside
- The right tools and procedure for the job

How things go wrong

Lime Potts, Keswick (Severe Burns to Hands)

Gregson Lane, Lancashire (Fall fatality)

Warrington Road, Merseyside (Severe burns to hand/arms)

- People assume but don't know (WR, LP)
- We fail to look after our mates (GL, WR, LP)
- We sometimes know its not right but just don't say anything (GL, LP)
- We think we know better than the safety rules & procedures (GL, WR, LP)
- We don't do things right because it seems easier not to (GL, WR, LP)
- We are ill prepared to carry out the work (GL, LP)
- We are out of our depth, not sufficiently competent (LP)

How do we prevent incidents

- Follow your safety rules!
- Have a plan, follow the plan, communicate the plan
- Challenge any unsafe act or situation – without exception
- Always work within your level of competence – if in doubt, ask
- Always carry out meaningful Dynamic Risk Assessments and write it down
- Work in a tidy, orderly and controlled environment

Human behavioral factors

- We bring our life and problems to work
- We are uncomfortable challenging each other, especially experienced colleagues
- We can only hold approximately 4 or 5 things in our mind at one time
- We assume everything will be fine
- We take the easy option to stay 'comfortable'
- Our level of persistence is low

Developing a safety culture & leadership

- Talk about safety everyday with all your people
- Make it collaborative, involve your people
- Your people want to report safe and unsafe situations to you everyday
- Reward safe behavior
- Train your people and make it interesting
- Measure safety performance and share it with your people
- Visit your people on site, inspect their safety performance
- Actively coach and mentor your people on safety performance

In Summary...

If you can get your people to challenge each other respectfully on any, and all, unsafe acts or situations, you will work safely and sleep well every night