

TOOL BOX TALKS

No. 19 Electricity on Site

Prepare: Location? Distractions? Talk aids?

Reason: Unseen, unheard, electricity can cause death or serious injury without warning.

Why: Your body is an extremely good electricity conductor – don't find out the hard way.

Outline: This talk will cover: Underground cables and overhead power lines.

Underground Cables

1. Before digging, check plans provided by local electricity company, Telephone Company and Cable TV Company.
2. Before digging, use a cable locating device that is in good working order. Ensure you are trained to use it.
3. Assume all cables are live, unless your supervisor tells you they are dead.
4. Hand dig trial holes to expose cables, look for marker tape or tiles above the cables. Continue using the cable locator to establish exact location.

Q: Prior to digging name two things that must be done.

5. When exposed, protect cable from damage and support it.
6. If the cable is accidentally damaged, keep all persons clear until the electricity company has inspected.
7. Before back-filling, ensure marker tapes or tiles are replaced.
8. If using power tools to break up concrete surfaces, avoid over penetration as the cable may be directly underneath.

Q: What action would you take if you accidentally damaged an underground electric cable?

REMEMBER: PLAN – LOCATE – DIG