

Be
Prepared:

Electrical Safety



Working with electricity, either directly or indirectly, can be very dangerous. Observe the following precautions in order to keep yourself and others safe.

Generators

Generators can be a life-saver when the power goes off, but can also be hazardous. When using a generator:

- Always keep it outside where dangerous fumes cannot enter the building.
- Ensure that the main circuit breaker is switched off before starting the generator.
- Turn off the generator and let it cool before refuelling.

Power Lines

Overhead and buried power lines are significant dangers because they carry extremely high voltages. Be sure to:

- Always watch for overhead power lines and buried power line indicators.
- Always assume that overhead power lines are energised and stay 3 metres away.
- De-energise and earth lines when working near them.
- Use wood or fibre-glass ladders when working near power lines.

Extension Cables

Extension cables can pose a threat if the following guidelines are not met:

- Do not modify cables or use them incorrectly.
- Use only factory-assembled cables.
- Use cables, connection devices and fittings that are equipped with strain relief.
- Unplug cables by pulling on the plug itself, not the cable.

Equipment

Normal use of electrical equipment causes wear and tear that results in insulation breaks, short-circuits and exposed wires. Observe the following precautions:

- Use double-insulated tools and equipment, distinctively marked.
- Visually inspect all electrical equipment before use. Remove from service any equipment with frayed cables, missing earthing prongs and cracked tool casings etc.

Electrical Incidents

Follow these guidelines to avoid injuries when working with electrical equipment:

- Earth all power supply systems, electrical circuits and electrical equipment.
- Frequently inspect electrical systems to ensure that the path to ground is continuous.
- Do not remove earthing prongs from cable- and plug-connected equipment or extension cables.
- Use double-insulated tools and earth all exposed metal parts of equipment.
- Avoid standing in wet areas when using portable electrical power tools.