



FUSS & O'NEILL
Disciplines to Deliver



Electrical Safety – 10 Things You May Not Have Known

Michael Callahan, PE and Craig A. Calvert Ph.D., C-CHO

April 15, 2010

Welcome to the April issue of the School Safety Newsletter. This newsletter will provide information on electrical safety and some tips to help maintain a safe facility. Below we have included some basic facts concerning electrical safety as well as information on identifying and preventing electrical hazards. We hope that you find this newsletter useful, and as always, we look forward to providing you with the quality service and information that has made Fuss & O'Neill successful.

-
1. In the USA, there are over 3,000 fatalities and 35,000 serious injuries each year caused by electrical accidents.
 - OSHA research concludes that most were preventable
 2. Risks associated with electrical systems fall into two categories: **1) shock hazards** and **2) arc flash hazards**.
 3. **Electrical shock** occurs when contact is made with an exposed energized electrical component.
 - Shock hazards can even occur at voltage levels as low as 50 volts
 - Many people need training to identify shock hazards
 4. An **arc flash** is a large release of thermal energy associated with a short circuit. If a worker is exposed to an arc flash serious burns and other injuries can occur.
 - Significant risk from arc flash is present in most electrical distribution systems
 5. As an employer you are required to have a written safety program in compliance with OSHA & NFPA 70E.
 6. OSHA has mandatory requirements for employers to perform risk assessments and have electrical safety programs and procedures in place to minimize risk from electrical hazards.
 7. Fortunately, there are simple and inexpensive ways to comply with OSHA's electrical safety requirements and therefore minimize the risk associated with both shock and arc flash.
 8. Simple written policies and procedures, a good maintenance program, training, and the use of personal protective equipment such as rubber gloves, flame retardant clothing, and face shields help to minimize the risk. NFPA 70E "Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace" is an excellent resource.
 9. Your employees (and outside contractors you hire) who face a risk of electrical hazard must be provided with and trained in the use of appropriate personal protective equipment in accordance the NFPA 70E and OSHA requirements.
 10. OSHA is currently placing a strong emphasis on electrical safety and is increasing their enforcement efforts.
-

Fuss & O'Neill offers services to address electrical safety in the work place. We can provide a variety of services such as electrical safety training, preparation of safety plans, and can assist with risk assessment. We can walk you through the process; it is not that difficult. An expert is available to review the options with you and if needed visit your facility. Fuss & O'Neill has years of experience providing safety services to schools and is offering this service to help you maintain or increase your overall safety.

For more information and copies of the regulations contact:

Michael Callahan, PE
mcallahan@fando.com
 (860) 646-2469 x5300
 146 Hartford Road
 Manchester, CT 06040

For more information on school safety: www.schoolsafetyinfo.blogspot.com/