

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

November 2023

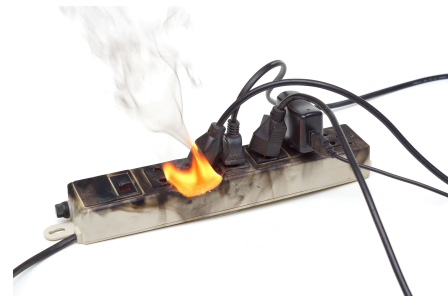
ELECTRICAL SAFE WORK PRACTICES

Electricity is a powerful resource that we use every day, but it can also be dangerous if not handled properly. Schools are filled with electrical appliances and equipment that require care and attention to prevent accidents.

To ensure that everyone stays safe, it's important to follow electrical safety rules and tips at school.

- **Inspect electrical equipment regularly.** School staff should regularly inspect electrical equipment such as appliances, outlets, and wiring. Any damaged or worn equipment should be replaced or repaired immediately.
- **Keep electrical equipment away from water.** All electrical equipment should be kept away from water sources to prevent electric shock. Staff should also ensure that the areas around electrical equipment are kept dry.
- **Don't use damaged equipment.** Damaged electrical equipment should never be used. Instead, it should be tagged and taken out of service until it can be repaired or replaced.
- **Train staff on electrical safety.** All staff members who work with electrical equipment should be trained on electrical safety procedures. This training should include information on identifying hazards, how to use equipment properly, and what to do in an emergency.
- **Use appropriate protective equipment.** Staff who work with electrical equipment should wear appropriate protective equipment such as rubber gloves, safety glasses, and insulated boots.
- **Use high-quality electrical appliances.** It's important for school staff to use high-quality electrical appliances that have been tested and approved by recognized safety organizations, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

- **Always disconnect power when leaving.** Leaving electrical equipment on when it's not in use can increase the risk of electrical fires and waste energy.
- **Use AFCIs and GFCIs.** School staff should ensure that all electrical circuits in the school are protected by Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) and Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). AFCIs can detect and prevent electrical fires caused by arcing faults, while GFCIs can protect against electrical shocks by quickly shutting off power when a ground fault is detected. These safety devices are required by the National Electrical Code (NEC) and can help prevent electrical accidents and injuries at school.



Be aware of your surroundings. Always look for electrical hazards in your surroundings, such as damaged outlets, frayed cords, or exposed wires. If you notice any hazards, report them to the appropriate person.

NBSIA Safety Specialists available for site inspections and electrical safety training.

Electrical Safety Training course available in VectorSolutions.

Sources:

<https://hazwoper-osh.com/blog-post/the-role-of-lockout-tagout-in-electrical-safety>

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<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA3529.pdf>



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