

# Workplaces need to prevent electrical safety hazards

Electrical accidents at work can be very dangerous and often result in serious or fatal injuries. Unfortunately, many workers in Pennsylvania are exposed to electrical hazards on the job and are at risk for suffering a severe injury.

May is National Electrical Safety Month and workplace safety advocates are trying to raise awareness about the dangers of electrical accidents in the workplace. Overhead power lines and electrical equipment used at construction sites commonly cause electrical accidents and injuries to workers.

Electrical accidents such as falling or touching an overhead power line can result in very serious injuries including severe burns and internal injuries that often require hospital treatment and even long-term care. Electrical safety hazards put workers at risk for suffering traumatic injuries and it is up to employers to make sure electrical safety hazards are addressed before a tragic or fatal accident happens.

During the National Electrical Safety Month, workplace safety organizations have offered the following tips for employers and workers to prevent electrical accidents in the workplace:

- Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines, which includes keeping work equipment at least 10 feet away as well.
- Always be aware of power lines, especially when using ladders and other tools, and take appropriate safety precautions when working on roofs or other high buildings that are near power lines.
- Always follow safety procedures when working near power lines and with certain electrical equipment.
- Notify a supervisor if electrical equipment is torn,

ripped, worn down or not working properly as it may put you at a higher risk for suffering an electrical injury.

Electrical hazards can result in serious and fatal injuries and it is up to employers to train and educate workers about the safe practices to take when working around this type of hazard.

**Source:** EHS Today, "[National Electrical Safety Month: Six Safety Tips for Working Near Overhead Power Lines](#)," Laura Walter, May 13, 2013