

# USFK Safety Gram



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## Electrical Shock Kills!

We rely on electrical power to keep our workplaces and our homes operating day and night. Electricity provides heat, light and energy to do many kinds of work. As useful as electricity is, we must never forget it is also dangerous. Electrical shock kills. Electricity can also cause fires and explosions.



### *Here are some reminders about electrical safety at work and at home:*

- ◆ Keep electricity and moisture away from each other. Never touch electrical equipment with wet hands or when standing on a damp surface. Do not work around electricity when your tools or clothing are wet.
- ◆ Report any indications of electrical malfunction. Watch for these signs: flickering lights, radio or television interference when another electrical device is in operation, buzzing sounds in electrical panels, switches or outlets hot to the touch, damaged or worn insulation, loose switches and electrical equipment which works sometimes and doesn't work the next time.
- ◆ Never attempt electrical repairs unless you are qualified and authorized to do so. Do not use electrical equipment altered with makeshift repairs.
- ◆ Do not alter plugs by removing the third prong so it can fit into a two-prong outlet. This defeats the safety feature of a ground wire.
- ◆ Only use extension cords temporarily. Have wiring upgraded to accommodate new equipment.
- ◆ Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) whenever you use electrical tools and appliances around moisture or outdoors. These devices can detect leakage of electricity from a circuit before you are harmed by electrical shock.
- ◆ Wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when working around electrical hazards. This may include leather gloves covered by rubber gloves, non-conductive footwear, arc flash protective gear, and safety eyewear. Do not wear metal jewelry which can accidentally contact the electrical circuit, causing shock.
- ◆ Heed all warning signs about electrical hazards. Stay away from high voltage installations and other posted areas.
- ◆ Beware of overhead electrical hazards. Watch for power lines and ceiling fixtures when moving items such as ladders or pipes, or operating equipment such as cranes or lifting devices.
- ◆ Use your electrical safety sense off the job too. Inspect your home for possible electrical hazards, including overloaded circuits and defective electrical equipment. Have a qualified electrician repair or improve wiring as necessary. Have GFCIs installed in bathrooms, basements, kitchens, and areas outdoors where you use electrical equipment.

### *Obtain training in what to do in case of an accident involving electricity:*

- ◆ Before you attempt to rescue a victim of electric shock, make sure you are not putting yourself in similar danger. Do not touch the person and do not use a tool to reach the person unless you are sure the power has been disconnected. Check for a heartbeat and if necessary start CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) if you are trained to do so. Get medical help immediately.
  - ◆ If fire occurs in energized electrical equipment, use only a "C" fire extinguisher, or a combination "ABC" or "BC" extinguisher. Never put water on an electrical fire; the result can be a deadly shock.



**Caution must be used around all electrical circuits and equipment. Never underestimate the potential for electrical shock.**