

Field Guide

Electrical Injury Emergency Response







More Information



DOs and DON'Ts

- <u>DO</u> include the emergency response plan in the job briefing.
- **DON'T** touch the person until power is off or the source is removed.
- <u>DO</u> look for electrical hazards such as water on floor, wires and cords, and open panels.
- **DON'T** approach a victim on a metal deck or walk into water unless power is shut off.
- <u>DO</u> use land-line where possible to ensure fastest response time. Use a cell if necessary –ensure location is understood!
- <u>DON'T</u> pull the fire alarm since this will evacuate the building and confuse the response.
- DO ask others present to help call 911 and get the AED.
- <u>DON'T</u> send the victim away in a taxi, personal or public vehicle. Use the EMS ambulance.
- $\underline{\text{DO}}$ call for electrical support ASAP: Supervisors, EHS or any QEW.

FACTS

- A person receiving a shock may not be able to let go until power is shut off. **Don't become a second victim!**
- A land-line is the best way to ensure fastest response by EMS because it goes straight to a local dispatcher registering the exact location of the incident.
- A severe shock can cause heart fibrillation. Delayed heart fibrillation may occur up to 24 hours after a shock, so **evaluation by a health professional is required** (an EKG will be performed).
- Look for "Obvious signs of life". CPR with AED use is recommended when the answer to BOTH questions is NO.
 o Is victim responsive?
 - Is victim breathing normally?
 - **NOTE** gasps and grunts are NOT normal breathing
- Where CPR and AED use is recommended and no AED is available, CPR alone should immediately begin and continue until EMS arrives or victim becomes responsive.
- CPR with AED use Follow AED prompts
- CPR compression ratios: 100 120 per minute • With breaths - 30 compressions then 2 breaths
 - o Compression alone 100 120 per minute

SHOCK INCIDENTS

All shocks must be reported! Tell your supervisor.

NOTE: The following are NOT minor shocks! <u>Call 911</u> IMMEDIATELY regardless of apparent severity or injury:

- Any loss of consciousness (even if employee is subsequently awake and talking)
- Any reported or witnessed
 prolonged contact (unable to let go)
- Any fall or trauma
 - Contact has caused burns/injuries All high voltage incidents (>750v) or lightning strikes
- Skin is not intact (i.e. an open wound) at point of contact
- Skin is wet from sweat or humidity
- Possibility that current passed through the heart or head.
- Employee has implated medical device (includes but not limited to pacemaker, implantable defibrillator etc.)
- Employee has serious chronic medical condition which may increase the risk of injury/illness from electrical contact.

If in doubt, ALWAYS call 911!

ARC FLASH INCIDENT FIRST AID

- Summon help (call 911 or facility emergency number)
- Ensure circuits are turned off at source
- Prior to removing any arc flash PPE, determine consciousness of victim and ask if there is any known injury and they are breathing OK.



- Carefully remove arc flash clothing from victim to expose any potentially injured area
- Monitor breathing and restrict victim from excessive movement. Monitor for shock.
- Determine if the victim received an electrical shock during the event.
- Only move victim out of immediate area when it is unsafe to stay. Wait for emergency help to arrive.
- Report all arc flash incidents to your supervisor.

QEW PREP

PRE-JOB EMERGENCY PREPARATION

- Power shutoff nearby and/or rescue hook available?
- Landline phone (preferable) available for 911? Does cell phone have strong signal?
- Clear exit path?

- AED nearby?Fire extinguisher nearby?
- □ 2nd person identified, trained and briefed?
- Emergency lights checked or have flashlight?