

SHOCK VS. ELECTROCUTION

While most personnel are aware that there is a danger of electrical shock or electrocution in general, many workers are unaware of the potential electrical hazards present in their daily work environment, which makes them more vulnerable to the danger of electrical shock.

The following hazards are the most frequent causes of electrical injuries:

- contact with power lines
- lack of ground-fault protection
- path to ground missing or discontinuous
- equipment not used in manner prescribed
- improper use of extension and flexible cords



Electrical Shock – a sudden discharge of electricity through a part of the body that may result in injury

Electrocution – death by electric shock

An electric shock is received when electrical current passes through the body and can result in anything from a slight tingling sensation to immediate cardiac arrest.

A severe shock can cause considerably more damage than meets the eye.

- A victim may suffer internal hemorrhages, renal damage and destruction of tissues, nerves, and muscles that aren't readily visible.
- A small current that passes through the trunk of the body (heart and lungs) can cause severe injury or electrocution.
- Burns are the most common shock-related injury.
- The longer the exposure, the greater the risk of serious injury. Longer exposures at even relatively low voltages can be just as dangerous as short exposures at higher voltages.
- Low voltage does not mean low hazard.

Discussion

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Have you ever received an electrical shock? What happened?

Describe safety precautions that can prevent shock and electrocution.