

Electrical Power

Working near or with electricity can be hazardous. A mistake around electricity could easily be your last. Even experienced electricians and electrical power installers must stay on guard.

Vinny's Story

Vinny and two co-workers were installing individual electrical units in an apartment building under construction. The circuit breaker protecting the main breaker box for the entire building had been labeled but not locked out. The crew began wiping down the individual units before a pre-startup inspection by the building department. They did not know that the utility workers had energized the internal circuit. As Vinny wiped down one of the units, his right hand contacted an electrical circuit and his left contacted a bar on the electrical circuit. This created a path for electrical current to flow. He was electrocuted and died.

- ✘ How could this incident have been avoided?
- ✘ What should you assume about any electrical circuit?
- ✘ Do you know someone who has been electrocuted? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- **Always** make sure circuits are de-energized before doing any type of work on electrical circuits.
- **Always** verify electricity is de-energized by testing with an AC voltage detector.
- **Always** use lockout devices to prevent a circuit from becoming live.
- **Always** put a tag on the locked electrical circuit to warn that it should not be turned on.
- Be aware of equipment marked high-voltage, which can store lethal energy even when disconnected from the power source. Before beginning work, **always** test with an AC voltage detector to verify that electrical systems are de-energized.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent serious injuries or deaths from electricity?

1. _____

2. _____

OSHA Regulation: 1926.416-417

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- ⚡ De-energize, lock out, and tag all electrical systems before working on electrical circuits.
- ⚡ Always verify electrical systems are de-energized, by testing with an AC voltage detector.