



**"Your Connection for Workplace Safety"**  
Phone: 920-208-7520

# Weekly Safety Tip

*We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!*

## SCI Safety Tip: Essentials for Workplace Electrical Safety

Source: [www.blr.com](http://www.blr.com)

Date: October 23, 2014

*Our Weekly Safety Tip provides valuable and current safety information relevant for Work, Home & Play.*

*And, you will be kept current on the latest Safety Compliance issues.*



**SCI SAFETY NEWS OR TIP**



**SCI OSHA NEWS OR COMPLIANCE**



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**We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.**

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**Safety Slogan**

**Don't be a stranger  
to electrical danger.  
James Lehrke-SCI**

**of the week**

During the workday, an employee is hurt from electricity every 30 minutes—severely enough that it requires time off the job. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (<http://www.esfi.org>), more than 30,000 workers have been injured in workplace electrical accidents over the last 10 years, and electrical violations are perennially on OSHA's list of most frequently cited standards.

While the number of fatalities associated with electric work has dramatically declined in recent decades, the risk remains significant. A number of agencies and organizations are involved in the effort to reduce injuries and deaths.

OSHA [electrical safety](#) requirements are found in two separate subparts of the regulation. The first is Part 1910, Subpart S, (general industry, electrical) and the second is Part 1926, Subpart K, (electrical standards for construction). As with many OSHA regulations, the electrical safety requirements are designed to be fairly general in nature.

The OSHA standards reference and cite more detailed consensus standards, including the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70E, which is considered a tool to help employers comply with OSHA regulations. Some experts describe OSHA as the "shall" of electrical safety compliance, while the NFPA provides the "how." The 2015 edition of NFPA 70E was published last month.

### Electrical safety basics

Employers who wish to remain compliant with OSHA regulations will also want to review the recently released revision of NFPA 70E *Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace*. The 2015 edition contains a variety of technical changes and revised definitions. It addresses labeling requirements for arc hazards, changes in arc flash tables, and new hazard/risk categories. As well, it makes changes in terminology, including a clarification of the term "normal operation" of enclosed electrical equipment, and clarification of labeling requirements.

According to Certified Safety Professional Mark Haskins, the most significant aspects of the revised 70E go beyond the technical changes. Haskins, founder of Connecticut-based Practical Safety Solutions, LLC, ([www.pss-llc.com](http://www.pss-llc.com)), sees two primary shifts in the 2015 edition.

"The first is that NFPA has continued down the road toward risk assessment versus strict hazard assessment," notes Haskins. For the first time, the 2015 edition of the 70E standard requires arc flash risk assessment—a change from arc flash hazard analysis. If an arc flash

hazard is found to exist, the risk assessment is conducted to determine the appropriate safety-related work practices, arc flash boundary, and PPE to be used.

With the changes, the arc flash study is incorporated into a broader risk assessment approach, which addresses not just the presence of the hazard but the likelihood that it will cause injury or property damage.

Haskins acknowledges that the change may not be comfortable for everyone. "Many people like to look things up in the arc flash tables and based on the task, conclude that a certain type of PPE is required." The process now becomes somewhat more subjective.

The second significant change is that NFPA has continued to ramp up its emphasis on a formalized electrical safety program. Haskins points out that an employer could follow all required OSHA standards and still not have in place a comprehensive electrical safety program.

One of the challenges for employers is that OSHA's electrical safety requirements are scattered throughout the CFR—in subparts addressing electrical hazards, lockout/tagout, PPE, and electrical power generation and distribution. "NFPA pulls it all into a nice bundle with a bow around it," adds Haskins.

#### **Do you know the answers to questions OSHA may ask?**

OSHA inspectors are trained to ask specific questions in the event of an electrical safety incident. Review this list of questions and make sure you can answer them.

- Is there a description of the circuit or equipment at the jobsite?
- Is there a detailed job description of planned work?
- Can you justify why equipment cannot be de-energized or the job deferred until the next scheduled outage?
- What safe working practices are in place?
- Do you have a detailed work procedure and descriptions of work practices to be used?
- Did you use a job briefing checklist and was the job briefing performed for those doing the work?
- Did you get proper management approval?

## **SCI OSHA News: Contesting an OSHA Citation? Common Affirmative Defenses (Part 2)**

**Source:** [www.blr.com](http://www.blr.com)

**By Jennifer Busick**

**Date: October 1, 2014**

### **The Impossibility Defense**

When you argue that you did not comply with a standard because compliance was simply not possible, you must demonstrate that:

- Compliance with the standard's requirements is functionally impossible, or would prevent workers from completing required work, *and*
- There are no feasible alternative means of providing equivalent protection for workers.

If you fail to establish either of these things, your defense will fail.

**Affirmative Defenses** It might be that OSHA cited you for a violation and that the violation did occur, but that you do not feel that you should be held responsible for it. In order to contest a citation in such a case, the burden of proof will fall on you (the employer) rather than on OSHA, and your defense falls into the category of an affirmative defense. An affirmative defense is simply a defense which, if established by the employer, will excuse the employer from a violation that has otherwise been proved by OSHA.

The classic example of an affirmative defense in criminal law is self-defense. When a defendant in a murder trial argues that the murder was committed in self-defense, the defendant admits up front to having killed the other person. The defendant simply argues that he is not liable for murder because he acted in defense of his own life. In such cases, the accused is responsible for proving his defense, because the prosecution's assertion—that he killed another person—is not directly at issue.

## HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living

PREVEA  
Health & Wellness

### Sleep Disorder

Is it hard for you to fall asleep or stay asleep through the night? Do you wake up feeling tired or feel very sleepy during the day, even if you have had enough sleep? You might have a sleep disorder. The most common kinds are

- Insomnia - a hard time falling or staying asleep
- Sleep apnea - breathing interruptions during sleep
- Restless legs syndrome - a tingling or prickly sensation in the legs
- Narcolepsy - daytime "sleep attacks"

Nightmares, night terrors, sleepwalking, sleep talking, head banging, wetting the bed and grinding your teeth are kinds of sleep problems called parasomnias. There are treatments for most sleep disorders. Sometimes just having regular sleep habits can help.

The Lehrke Family Scholarship Fund Is Up & Running It's 2015 Fundraiser In Memory of the Lehrke Family Children - Jessica, Nick & Kristin – Our Theme – “ Help Us Help Others “



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- Winner may choose travel dates, hotel accommodations and flight, but will be responsible for any charges above the \$1000 total value of the vacation.
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- Package is redeemable in 2015. Travel must be completed by 12/31/15.
- Unused travel award will be forfeited. This award has no cash value and is non-refundable and non-transferable once booked.
- Travel arrangements must be made through Fox World Travel in Sheboygan.
- Cash prize of \$500 must be redeemed from Jim Lehrke on behalf of the Lehrke Family Scholarship Fund.
- Other restrictions may apply.

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**Thank you for your support!**

