Landscaping - Electrical Hazards Stats and Facts

FACTS

- 1. Landscapers working near trees or using tall equipment risk accidental contact with overhead power lines, leading to electrocution.
- 2. Digging or trenching without proper site assessment can result in striking buried electrical cables, causing shocks or service disruptions.
- 3. Faulty or improperly maintained electrical tools can pose shock hazards, especially in damp outdoor conditions.
- 4. Lack of appropriate PPE increases the risk of injury when dealing with electrical components or equipment.
- 5. Incorrectly installed lighting systems can lead to electrical faults, posing hazards to both workers and the public.
- 6. Working in wet or damp environments can increase the risk of electrical shock when using power tools or equipment.
- 7. Inadequate training in electrical safety can lead to improper handling of equipment and increased risk of accidents.

STATS

- Electrocution is the sixth leading cause of occupational fatalities in the United States, with landscaping workers at significant risk due to contact with electrical lines.
- Landscaping, gardening, and farming equipment account for approximately 67% of electrocutions each year in the USA.
- The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) notes that electrical hazards cause nearly one fatality every day in the workplace, with a significant portion occurring in industries like landscaping.
- Electricity Canada compiles data annually to support

industry-wide benchmarking and drive safety culture improvements, highlighting the ongoing efforts to reduce electrical hazards in various industries, including landscaping.

- From 2011-2021, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 1,072 work-related fatalities occurred in the landscaping and groundskeeping industry, with electrical hazards being a significant contributor.
- Approximately 13,000 injury or illness cases are reported in the horticulture and landscaping industry each year, with electrical hazards being among the common causes.
- The 2021 Ontario Electrical Safety Report indicates that contact with overhead power lines remains a leading cause of electrical fatalities in outdoor work environments, including landscaping.