Overhead Electrical Hazards for Municipalities Stats and Facts

FACTS

Electrical injuries from power line accidents remain to be a dangerous risk across various industries. Without proper equipment or safety procedures, workers are at risk for electrical shock, severe burns, or even death.

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Electrical injuries can be caused by a wide range of voltages, but the risk of injury is generally greater with higher voltages and is dependent upon individual circumstances.

A voltage as low as 50 volts applied between two parts of the human body causes a current to flow that can block the electrical signals between the brain and the muscles. This may have a number of effects including:

- Stopping the heart beating properly
- Preventing the person from breathing
- Causing muscle spasms

STATS

- Overhead power lines cause 40% of all electrically related fatalities, in the workplace.
- Fatalities: According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), an average of 160 people in the United States are killed each year as a result of contact with overhead power lines.
- Injuries: In addition to fatalities, there are also many injuries associated with overhead power line accidents. The ESFI estimates that there are around 1,500 non-fatal electrical injuries each year in the United States.
- Injuries from overhead power lines can result in significant medical expenses and lost wages. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates that the average cost of a non-fatal electrical injury is $80,000.
- Overhead power line accidents are the leading cause of occupational electrical fatalities in the United States, accounting for approximately 35% of all electrical fatalities in the workplace.