Seven Statistics on Electrical Hazards

Many people take electricity for granted and their complacency can come back to zap them, sometimes fatally so. Here are seven statistics relating to electrical safety.

1. Electrical hazards cause more than 300 deaths and 4,000 injuries in workplaces across the US every year. (Electrical Safety Foundation International)
2. As little as 100 milliamps of current passing across the chest for a couple of seconds can put the heart into a fatal rhythm. (Ohio State University)
3. The degree of injury from an electrical shock depends on three things: The part of your body that receives the current; the duration of the shock; and the amount of current passing through your body.
4. Your chances of being electrocuted increase under these four conditions: When standing in a pool of water; when wearing wet clothing; when working in highly-humid conditions; and when you are perspiring.
5. Two conditions that will cause you to experience an electric shock are: when touching a live wire and an electrical ground; and when touching a live wire and another wire at a different voltage. (OSHA)
6. The number one non-fatal electrical injury is an electrical burn. (OSHA)
7. Contact with overhead power lines accounts for about 42 percent of all on-the-job electrical deaths. (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH))

As with many other conveniences, reliance on electricity is so common that people tend to become complacent about the hazards associated with its use. Mistakes people make—such as assuming that because an electrical item has been switched off, it poses no danger—frequently result in serious injury or death. Here are seven statistics related to electrical hazards: