

# Is This How Your Workers Do Electrical Work?

What's wrong with this picture?



You don't have to be an electrical engineer to recognize that it's not a great idea to repair electrical equipment with one's feet immersed in a puddle. It's just too bad the gentleman in the photo didn't get the memo.

**The Moral:** To avoid getting electrocuted, workers should perform electrical work only in dry locations.

**What's at Stake**

## Electrocution Deaths By the Numbers

Maybe the worker in the picture wouldn't have parked himself in that puddle if he had been aware of these numbers about electrocution:

- **411** The average number of U.S. workers electrocuted each year
- **5** Electrocution is the fifth leading cause of U.S. workplace

deaths

- **7** Seven out of 100 U.S. workers killed on the job are electrocuted
- **2** Electrocution is the second most common cause of deaths on construction sites
- **3** The 3 most common electrocution victims are workers in the electrical trades, construction and manufacturing

## **What is Electrocution?**

### **How It Kills You**

Electrocution is a fatal injury caused by absorption of too much electrical shock. It can happen to you at work if you touch a live wire or are otherwise exposed to shock strong enough to stop your heart.

### **Why Workers Get Electrocuted**

#### **5 Most Common Causes**

Most workplace electrocutions happen for 1 or more of the following 5 reasons:

1. There were no electrical safe work procedures at the workplace
2. The victim had no or the wrong kind of PPE (personal protective equipment)
3. Lockout/Tagout procedures either didn't exist or weren't followed
4. The victim wasn't adequately trained in electrical hazards
5. The victim's supervisor wasn't adequately trained in electrical hazards

### **Don't Let This Happen to You!**

#### **10 Electrical Safety Do's & Don'ts**

- **DO** inspect electric cords and equipment to ensure they're in good shape

- **DON'T** run extension cords across doorways or under carpets
- **DO** avoid overloading electrical outlets
- **DON'T** work on electrical equipment or installations while standing in water
- **DO** replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords
- **DON'T** repair electric cords or equipment unless you're qualified and authorized to do so
- **DO** use ground-fault circuit interrupters when working in damp locations
- **DON'T** touch fallen power lines
- **DO** call the electric company immediately to report downed lines
- **DON'T** get any closer than 10 feet away from overhead power lines while working outdoors