

DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program Emergency Response When exposed to Shock Hazards

Purpose: Employees exposed to shock hazards are to be trained in methods to safely release victims in contact (hung-up / stuck to) energized electrical conductors, wires or circuit parts.

Background:

Electricity travels through conductors - any material which allows electrical flow - as it tries to reach the ground. Because people make excellent conductors, electrocution is a common hazard. Some basic precautions should be taken to insure that the shock does not interfere with the body's normal electrical impulses including the functions of the brain and the heart and lead to sudden cardiac arrest. Prolonged exposure to a direct source of electricity can also cause severe burns to the skin and the tissue.

Policy: All staff exposed to a shock hazard will be trained in methods to safely release victims (hung-up) with energized electric, with an annual refresher.

If you find an employee hung-up / stuck to an energized electrical source:

Do NOT rush to assist the victim until you are certain that they are no longer in contact with electricity. Otherwise the current will pass through the victim directly to you.

- If at all possible, turn off the source of electricity (i.e. light switch, circuit breaker, etc.)
 - If this is not an option, use a non-conductive material such as plastic or dry wood (shepherds hook) to separate the source of electricity from the victim before First Aid can be started.
- If someone has not called already, dial 9-1-1 and if on Wheaton campus Security ext. 5262 and explain what happened to the victim.
- Check the victim's vital signs and if needed begin to perform CPR / AED usage.
- If they do not need CPR/ AED-While waiting for ambulance treat any areas of the victim's body that may have sustained burns with cold water (not ice).
- While waiting for medical professionals to arrive if the victim is responsive and does not appear seriously injured but looks pale or faint, they may be at risk of going into shock. Gently lay them down with their head slightly lower than then the chest and feet are elevated.