
WEEKLY TOOLBOX TALK: HAZARD ANALYSIS - WORKING AROUND SPRINKLERS OR ELECTRICAL AREAS

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Electricity has long been recognized as a serious workplace hazard, exposing employees to such dangers as electrical shock, electrocution, fires and explosions. However when we talk about fires, is also important to mention that sprinkler systems are installed in projects to prevent fire breakouts inside buildings, but when these lines with high-pressure water are broken, the sprinkler lines can also turn into catastrophic damage for property and equipment.

Therefore we have developed the following guidelines. In addition, your supervisor will provide a JHA (Job Hazard Analysis) every time we work in these areas. This form will be posted on the work area and it will include emergency numbers and procedures.

Check each item

- ? Locate all sprinkler heads and electrical lines in the area prior to starting work.
- ? Find out whether or not the sprinkler system or electrical lines are energized.
- ? Locate the shut off valve or electrical panel before any work begins.
- ? Make sure shut offs are operational and accessible every day.
- ? Review shut off procedure with all employees in case of an emergency.
- ? If the shut-off is far away or not easily accessible, see if the system can be turned off while working in the area or supply a spotter that can be contacted by radio if an emergency shut down is required. Never shut off any system without permission from the General Contractor.
- ? Avoid moving equipment close to any sprinkler or electrical line.

? Do not try to move under any circumstance a sprinkler or electrical line out of the way as this could brake or loosen fittings and cause serious damage or injury.

? When sprinklers and electrical systems are in place, they are NOT intended to support any weight, movement, or pressure from any direction.

? Do not tie any fall protection equipment to sprinkler pipes or electrical conduit.

? When lifts are elevated, make sure the rails and materials stay clear of all sprinkler heads and electrical lines.

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