



Safety and Security Advisory: Control of Hazardous Energy – Frequent Hazardous Energy-related Injuries

Below are some of the most common injuries associated with hazardous energy. To avoid these and other types of related injuries, great care and attention must be paid when working with hazardous energy.

Arc flash occurs when there is a sudden and rapid spread of fire through the air causing an electric current to leave its intended path and travel from one conductor to another or into the ground. An injury to an employee can leave life-long issues or even lead to death.



There are several ways to protect employees from arc flash such as work practices, insulation, guarding, barricades, and grounding. PPE is also available to protect against the possible injuries that can occur from an arc flash. Warning labels should be posted on equipment that is operating at 50 volts or more. The posting must also be readily accessible to any employee who works in the area.

Electric shock is the tingling sensation that can occur when a person experiences an electrical current passing through the body. An electric shock can severely burn or kill muscle tissue and, in extreme cases, lead to death. The best and safest action is to call 911 or activate the Emergency Response System. Electric shock signs (image) should be displayed on equipment that can cause an electrical shock.



Proper **Lock-out/Tag-out (LO/TO)** procedures and practices protect workers from the release of hazardous energy. Employers are required to train employees to ensure that they know, understand, and are able to follow the rule of the hazardous energy control procedures. Some common injuries that can occur when LO/TO is not properly used include electrical shock, electrocution, crushed when using hydraulics, drowning, or other work-related injuries.

One in every 20 **space heaters** causes fires and fatalities. Space heaters are commonly used in offices, homes and other locations to provide an added amount of heat. When buying a space heater, guarantee that it has been tested by a nationally recognized testing company. Keep the heater at least three feet away from furniture, drapes or any other flammable items. Make sure that the heater is placed on a leveled surface.



If you have questions on this or any other safety matter, contact the Office of Safety and Security at 212.306.8800; or send an e-mail to: SafeNYCHA@nycha.nyc.gov.

SUPERVISORS: Please post a copy of this advisory on your development’s safety bulletin board.

Thank you!