

Electrical Safety



Best Practice Series BP-17



Electrical or electrically-related fatalities have often occurred in coal and metal/nonmetal mines.

Victims have included electricians, truck drivers, supervisors, maintenance personnel, crusher operators, and mechanics.

To help prevent electrical accidents you should:

- **NOT** do electrical work unless you're qualified.
- **ALWAYS** de-energize equipment and use lockout and tagout procedures. To ensure that equipment is not energized, test before troubleshooting or attempting to make repairs.
- **NOT** rely on someone else to do it; anyone working on electrical circuits or equipment must put their lock on equipment and be sure it's been de-energized.
- **ALWAYS** be careful of overhead power lines. Contact kills!

- **NEVER** touch or handle energized high-voltage cables.
- **ALWAYS** handle trailing cables with proper equipment.
- **NEVER** “wire out” or “bridge out” fuses.
- **REMEMBER** that water conducts electricity and can provide a path that kills.
- **ALWAYS** be careful around battery chargers. The gas that bubbles off batteries is highly explosive.

Arrive Home Alive

*U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
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