Contractors performing services or construction at a mine fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act). This means that contractors must comply with the Mine Act and the safety and health standards contained in Title 30 Code of Federal Regulations (30 CFR).

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is the Federal agency which administers the provisions of the Mine Act and enforces its requirements. MSHA issues citations and orders to contractors for violating safety and health laws. Each violation cited will result in the assessment of a civil penalty.

Contractors who perform work on mine property must be informed of hazards which exist on the property and are specific to the mine’s operations.

Remember to:

- Always obtain directions to the work area and information concerning potential mine hazards.
- Conduct work area examinations.
- Make sure equipment is safe to operate.
- Wear appropriate protective equipment.
- Wear safety belts and lines.

Many electrical accidents in mines occur when people perform jobs for which they’re not qualified.

These people are working on or near energized conductors; they’re operating equipment...
or working too near energized lines; they’re working on equipment with inadequate frame grounding; or they’re working around defective splices or insulation. The following safety tips are designed to help increase your safety awareness when working around electricity. These items are generic and applicable to most types of electrical systems when on or off mine property.

**GENERAL SAFETY**

- Always treat electricity with respect.
- Always be sure that all electric equipment frames and enclosures are effectively grounded.
- Always assume that all electrically-powered devices and power lines are energized (hot).
- Always follow all safety rules and procedures – shortcuts can kill.
- Always report any unsafe conditions immediately, and remove defective equipment from service.
- Remember – Only qualified electricians/helpers should do electrical work.

**WORK PRACTICES**

- Always deenergize equipment and use lockout and tagout procedures to ensure that equipment is not accidentally started while troubleshooting or attempting to make repairs - make sure equipment is grounded.
- Electricians or mechanics may sometimes be called on to perform jobs during which energized circuits and/or machinery motion are required for making certain tests and adjustments. Such work (without lockout) should be performed only when absolutely necessary and then only by trained and qualified persons using appropriate tools and equipment.

- Always block equipment against inadvertent movement.
- Always use the right tools for the job.
- Always use proper tools and personal protective equipment when operating disconnect switches to avoid injury from arcing or electrical contact.

**POWER LINES**

- Always be careful around power lines.
- Always keep mobile equipment such as cranes and trucks at least 10 feet away from any hot line.
- Never touch equipment operating near power lines.
- Never allow equipment to touch exposed high- or low-voltage power lines; overhead lines may be covered and appear to be insulated – but most are uninsulated.
- Always pay attention when carrying any long pieces of pipe, steel, or wood in the vicinity of overhead lines.

**ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS**

- Always stay out of electrical enclosures unless you’re an authorized and qualified person. Electrical enclosures in substations are dangerous.
- Always be careful around mills, crushers, and processing plants. These installations have many potential electrical hazards.
- Always make sure electrical conductors, enclosures, and switchgear are protected from mechanical damage.

**FUSES AND BREAKERS**

- Always check for overheating wiring, melted insulation, or damaged wiring and equipment if fuses blow or breakers open constantly.