

Electrical Work Practices

Additional Resources:

- [Complete OSHA Standard](#)

Employers must not allow employees to work near live parts of electrical circuits, unless the employees are protected by one of the following means:

De-energizing and grounding the parts;

Guarding the part by insulation; and

Any other effective means. 1926.416(a)(1)

The use of NFPA 70E, "Standard for Electrical Safety Requirements in the Workplace," is one method considered to meet the OSHA requirements for the protection of personnel from electrical hazards.

In work areas where the exact location of underground electrical power lines is unknown employees using jack hammers, bars, or other hand tools that may contact the lines must be protected by insulating gloves, aprons, or other protective clothing that will provide equivalent electrical protection. 1926.416(a)(2) and .95(a) Barriers or other means of guarding must be used to ensure that workspace for electrical equipment will not be used as a passageway during periods when energized parts of equipment are exposed. 1926.416(b)(1)

Equipment or circuits that are de-energized must be rendered inoperative and must have tags attached at all points where the equipment or circuits could be energized. 1926.417(b)