

# ELECTRICAL SAFEGUARDS

*Using your head can prevent many injuries.*

**E**lectric energy can be a powerful ally, but as an unseen and uncontrolled enemy it can also be a formidable foe. All too often we limit our safety thinking to matters of frayed insulation, grounding, fusing and electric shock. But to be completely safe we must apply other safeguards as well.

## Checklist

1. Never energize switches or controllers while protective covers are removed.
2. Always de-energize circuits and **lock out** switches before effecting electrical or mechanical repairs.
3. Further protect yourself from unexpected starting by tagging. The de-energized electrical control or switch with a sign warning: **"Men repairing this equipment – DO NOT ENERGIZE."**
4. Whenever the presence of vapor, gas or dust calls for "explosion proof" equipment, be sure that any portable equipment or trouble lights taken into the area are approved by Underwriters Laboratory for the atmosphere existing.
5. Keep electrical equipment free of dust, oil, grease and away from moisture, flammable liquids and combustible materials.
6. Report electrical difficulties promptly. DO NOT attempt electrical repairs yourself unless you are a completely trained electrician and know how the circuit functions.

## Thought Provokers

1. What areas of your job have the potential for electrical problems?
2. What can you do to minimize the chance for possible injuries?
3. Are there any specific points or problems you wish to discuss?