


The invisible killer



Electrical safety in the food and drink industry


OPERATORS' TOOLBOX TALK

The invisible killer
Electrical safety in the food and drink industry




Keep yourself and your colleagues safe!
Have you got the right equipment to do your job?

For more information contact
network@iosh.com
Free videos and guidance are at
www.iosh.com/electricalsafety




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Keep your work area safe!
Barrier-off and keep others away.

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Keep our workplace safe!
Report defects to your manager or supervisor.

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Keep our work area safe!
Bag plugs and electrical equipment before cleaning.

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Coaching questions

Answers that can aid discussion

1

If you had an electrical accident, how could this affect you or your family?

Answers can include:

- pain from the injury
- inability to work for a period of time
- loss of income, leading to financial pressure
- pressure on family life
- inability to enjoy spare time
- possibility of never being able to work again

2

What electrical hazards should you look for and report?

Answers can include:

- damaged cables
- damaged switches
- damaged plugs
- open electrical cabinets
- leads being used in ways which may cause them to become damaged
- engineering or cleaning works being completed on a machine which isn't isolated and locked-off
- an unauthorised person working on the electrical parts of a machine

3

Other than pulling plugs out by their cables, what other ways could electrical leads and cables become damaged?

Answers can include:

- leads and cables trailing across vehicle and pedestrian routes
- leads and cables being in contact with moving machinery
- dropping leads and cables onto the floor
- not storing leads and cables in the right way

Coaching questions

Answers that can aid discussion

4

How can you help yourself and your colleagues stay safe from electrical danger?

Answers can include:

- reporting electrical defects
- reporting unsafe equipment and making sure it's isolated and taken out of use
- ensuring that you don't work on electrical equipment if you're not trained to do so

5

Why is electricity considered a danger?

Answers can include:

- electricity has the potential to kill
- it can cause serious burns and harm to you and others working around you
- it's invisible, so the dangers may not be instantly recognisable
- it can start fires

6

What control measures should be in place to stop electricity becoming a danger?

Answers can include:

- pre-start checks on lines and machinery
- procedures for reporting damaged equipment
- training to recognise dangers
- isolation and lock-off procedures for maintenance, cleaning and securing unsafe equipment
- trained electricians to complete electrical work
- safe working practices to stop electrical equipment becoming damaged

Coaching questions

Answers that can aid discussion

7

What rules must you follow to stop electricity becoming a danger?

Answers can include:

- immediately report any defects identified during pre-start checks to your manager and before you start the line
- if you notice any damaged electrical equipment, report it to the correct person
- don't mistreat electrical equipment – such as pulling plugs from sockets by the cable
- isolate and lock-off equipment before cleaning down
- not keeping duplicate keys for electrical cabinets if you're not authorised to do so
- following training, and not attempting to access parts of a machine or line that you're not authorised to

8

Why should you not attempt to fix or access electrical equipment if you're not trained or authorised to do so?

Answers can include:

- you may injure or kill yourself while attempting to help
- you may leave the equipment in a dangerous condition that causes harm to other people
- you may cause the equipment to become damaged in such a way that it starts a fire
- you may cause damage to the equipment so that it stops working

9

If you find a piece of damaged electrical equipment, what you should do?

Answers can include:

- inform a manager immediately
- discuss individual site procedures

10

Have you had any personal experience of electricity becoming dangerous?

Answers can include:

- lawnmower travelling over or cutting its electrical lead
- changing a light bulb without first ensuring the switch is in the 'off' position
- minor electrical shock from a faulty home appliance
- fire as a result of faulty electrical equipment