

Metal Ladders Near Electrical Hazards

TRADE: ELECTRICAL

LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES

USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE

Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Use today's Metal Ladders Near Electrical Hazards talk as a quick crew check on conductive ladders contacting energized sources. Talk through the real conditions, the controls in place and what would make the crew stop and reset the job. Electrical incidents often happen when a circuit is assumed to be dead, temporary wiring is damaged or overloaded, or the work moves closer to energized parts than planned. Treat verification, protection and working clearance as part of the task, not paperwork that happens somewhere else.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS

While performing Metal Ladders Near Electrical Hazards, the crew finds a circuit, cable, box, or temporary-power condition that does not match the label or drawing. Someone says it is probably the same circuit they worked on yesterday. What must be verified before contact or continued work?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Identify the circuit/equipment and the isolation or protective device that applies to today's task.
- Inspect cords, plugs, enclosures and temporary wiring in the work area before energizing tools/equipment.
- Establish required working clearances and keep conductive materials/water out of the exposure zone.
- Use nonconductive access equipment when electrical exposure is possible.
- Survey overhead and adjacent electrical sources before carrying or setting a ladder.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Use nonconductive access equipment when electrical exposure is possible.
- Survey overhead and adjacent electrical sources before carrying or setting a ladder.
- Maintain required clearance and control long materials in the same work area.
- Do not reposition an extended ladder without checking the path above and around it.
- If the setup changes or the control for conductive ladders contacting energized sources is not working, stop the job and fix it before continuing.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Treating "off" as the same thing as verified de-energized.
- Using damaged or improvised temporary wiring because it still powers the tool.
- Letting water, metal access equipment or another trade move into the electrical clearance.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- The circuit, conductor or equipment cannot be positively identified or its status is uncertain.
- Cords, plugs, enclosures, GFCI protection or grounding/bonding are damaged or do not match the planned setup.
- Water, metal access equipment, nearby energized work or another condition changes the electrical exposure.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What is energized, what is de-energized, and how was that status verified instead of assumed?
2. What GFCI, grounding, isolation, guarding, or other protective device is controlling the electrical exposure today, and how was it checked?
3. Where could water, conductive material, damaged cords, or another trade change the electrical risk while we are working?
4. What clearance or approach boundary applies here, and how will the crew keep it clear through the whole task?
5. What must be verified before contact or continued work?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB

Show the disconnect/protective device or test method being relied on and identify the energized boundary.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW

Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.



ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Metal Ladders Near Electrical Hazards

Project / Job:		Date:	
Talk leader:		Location:	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
2			
3			
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

☐ Crew can point to the main hazard.	☐ Critical control is in place and usable.
☐ The responsible person/check is clear.	☐ Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.