Electrician – Fact Sheets



WHAT DOES AN ELECTRICIAN DO?

Electricians work in commercial, industrial, or residential settings. Some of their main duties are to:

- Install, repair and maintain electrical systems.
- Conform to electrical, building, and fire codes, and other regulations.
- Read, prepare or interpret blueprints and drawings.
- Prepare cost estimates and documentation for clients.
- Use, clean and maintain various equipment.
- Supervise journeymen, apprentices or other workers.

What are some health and safety issues for electricians?

Electricians work in a variety of settings and may be exposed to several hazards, including:

- Risk of fatal electrical shock.
- Risk of electrical burns.
- Fire.
- Working in confined spaces.
- Lead, solvents, solder, and other materials.
- Welding hazards, including UV radiation.
- Working in extreme conditions. Risk of pain or injury from awkward positions, repetitive manual tasks, or lifting heavy objects.
- Moulds, fungi and bacteria.
- Risk of infection from bird or rodent droppings.
- Working at heights.
- Risk of eye injury from flying particles.
- Slips, trips and falls.
- Working with various hand tools, power tools and equipment.
- Stress.
- Shift work or extended work days.
- Working alone.
- Possible exposure to asbestos.

What are some preventive measures for electricians?

- Inspect work area before work starts to identify potential hazards and their controls.
- Keep tools and equipment in good working order.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment for the task, including footwear.
- Keep work areas clear of clutter and equipment.
- Avoid awkward positions, and repetitive tasks, or take frequent breaks.
- Use safe lifting techniques.
- Follow a recommended shift work pattern, and know the associated hazards.

What are some good general safe work practices?

- Follow correct procedures for:
    - Electrical safety
    - Lockout/tagout
    - Confined spaces entry
    - Working at heights
    - Working with ladders
    - Lifting
    - Working with hand tools, and power tools
    - Fire safety
- Use, maintain and store personal protective equipment according to manufacturer’s recommendations.
- Learn about chemical hazards, WHMIS and SDSs.
- Know how to report a hazard.
- Follow good housekeeping procedures.
- Follow company safety rules and operating procedures.

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