



When working in a setting with electrical devices, there are other risks besides the possible risk of getting shocked. Arcs are minute, spark-like voltage spikes that appear when a current's passage is interrupted, as happens during a short circuit. On how dangerous arcs can be and how to avoid them, see below.

Arc Hazards

When there has been a short-circuit, damaged wiring, or damaged cord insulation, arcs can occur. The ensuing arc is known to be the cause of startling, burning, and in some cases, the lighting of a fire when the current is strong enough. Even the smallest arcs can cause potentially dangerous explosions if you work in an environment with flammable vapors, mists, or other tiny fibers.

Arc Prevention

Insulation, which serves as the live wire enclosure for some devices and the covering for electrical wires, permits currents to be kept out, preventing arcs. The insulation must, however, be appropriate for the electrical current and kept dry and maintained at all times in order to be effective. Every time before a use, check the insulation. Power cords should always be checked to make sure they're secure and undamaged, but if they are, make sure to replace them. Keep your feet off the cables and keep them away from sharp edges as two measures to maintain safety.

Working Wet

Working with electrical equipment in damp or moist conditions can be quite dangerous. Water increases the electrical current and reduces the effectiveness of insulation. Use double-insulation and a GFCI if using the electrical device in wet conditions is necessary (short for: Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter). When handling the equipment, make sure you are dry and avoid letting the cord come in contact with water.

Practice Basic Safety

Arcs can be prevented and the possibility of physical injury reduced if they do occur accidentally by using precautionary procedures on a regular basis. Inspect the equipment for damage, and if you find any, report it right away. Stable wire connections should also be reported. Only use grounded equipment and accessories when working, and only install them into grounded electrical outlets. Your work environment will become far less harmful for you and those around you if you handle electricity with caution.

