

Electrical Hazards

Electrical hazards can cause burns, shocks and electrocutions. Please be cautious when working with/near the following:

- Always use caution when working near electricity.
- Check insulated tools for damage before each use. Once the insulation layer of an insulated hand tool becomes nicked, cracked or cut, the tool is no longer effectively insulated - it actually becomes more of an electrical conductor, and can increase your risk of injury. If a tool has damaged insulation, it is no longer safe to use - replace it right away.
- Never operate electrical equipment while you are standing in water.
- Never repair electrical cords or equipment unless qualified and authorized.
- Have a qualified electrician inspect electrical equipment that became wet before energizing it.
- If working in damp locations, inspect electric cords and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition and free of defects, and use a ground-fault circuit interrupter.
- Check your cords often for fraying or damage and replace them if necessary. Use the right extension cord for the job: heavy-duty extension cords with power tools, moisture-resistant extension cords outdoors. Plus, place all cords safely out of the way so people don't trip over them.

Power lines safety:

- Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears insulated.
- Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or even death. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone - and it could do that through



your body. Never touch a fallen overhead power line. Call an electric utility company to report fallen electrical lines.

- The proper way to move away from the downed power line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead wires during cleanup and other activities. If working at heights or handling long objects, survey the area before starting work for the presence of overhead wires. Use wooden or fiberglass ladders outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity.
- If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not leave your vehicle. Warn people not to touch the vehicle or the wire. Call or ask someone to call the local electric utility company and emergency services.

