



Topic: Live Electric

You can learn plenty from a 'live wire.' Electrical shock can lead to cardiac arrest and death. Put these safety tips to work for you in your skills for life folder.

- ✚ Before doing any work on an electrical circuit, always turn off the circuit at the service panel. Once the power is off, tape a note over the panel warning others to leave it off.
- ✚ When testing a fixture or removing a fuse, work with one hand and keep the other behind your back. If one hand contacts electricity and the other makes contact with a “ground” (like a metal pipe) electricity can travel from one hand to the other, with your *heart* in its path.
- ✚ When working at the service panel, wear shoes with nonconductive rubber soles. Keep a rubber insulating mat or a stack of boards near the panel but where they can stay dry. *Never stand on a wet floor.*
- ✚ Before working on a switch, check that the power is off by using a voltage tester.



Ladders vs. powerlines

The electric company reminds you to be cautious when using a ladder near power lines.

- ✚ Keep ladders and tools at least 10 feet from lines. Allow greater clearance around high-voltage lines.
- ✚ Use a clean, dry, wood or fiberglass ladder near electric lines, not metal.
- ✚ When installing or removing an antenna, make sure it is at least one-and-a-half times its total height away from power lines. If the antenna starts to fall, stand clear. Let it go.
- ✚ What may look like insulation on power lines is weatherproofing. Power lines are not insulated. Never touch one under any circumstances.