Electrical hazard

Every person who works with electrical equipment should be constantly alert to the hazards of the equipment to which he may be exposed, and also be capable of rendering first aid to injured personnel. The installation, operation and maintenance of electrical equipment requires enforcement of a stern safety code. Carelessness on the part of the operator or the



maintenance technician can result in serious injury or death due to electric shock, falls, burns, flying objects, etc. After an accident has happened, investigation almost invariably shows that it could have been prevented by the exercising of simple safety precautions and procedures with which the personnel should have been familiar.

Each man concerned with electrical equipment should make it his personal responsibility to read and become thoroughly familiar with the safety practices and procedures contained in applicable safety directives, manuals and other publications, and in equipment technical manuals prior to performing work on the electrical equipment. It is the individual's responsibility to identify and eliminate unsafe conditions and unsafe acts which cause accidents.

Shock

Electric shock is a jarring, shaking sensation resulting from contact with electric circuits or from the effects of lightning. The victim usually feels that he has received a sudden blow; if the voltage and resulting current is sufficiently high, the victim may become unconscious. Severe burns may appear on the skin at the place of contact; muscular spasm may occur, causing the victim to clasp the apparatus or wire which caused the shock and be unable to turn it loose.

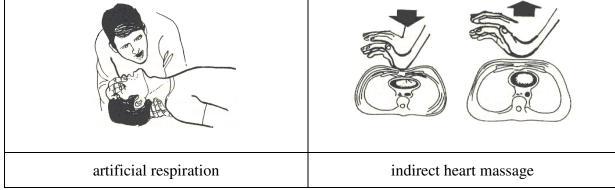
The following procedures are recommended for rescue and of shock victims:

- 1) Remove the victim from the electrical contact at once, but do not endanger yourself. This can be accomplished by:
 - a) Throwing the switch if it is nearby;
 - b) Cutting the cable or wires to the apparatus, using an ax with a wooden handle while taking care to protect your eyes from the flash when the wires are severed;
 - c) Using a dry stick, rope, belt, coat, blanket, or any other nonconductor of electricity, to drag or push the victim to safety.
- 2) Determine whether the victim is breathing. Keep him lying down in a comfortable position and loosen the clothing about his neck, chest and abdomen so that he can breath freely.

Protect him from exposure to cold and watch him carefully.



3) If the victim is not breathing, it will be necessary to apply artificial respiration without delay, even through he may appear to be lifeless.



- 4) Keep him from moving about. In this condition, the heart is very weak, and any sudden muscular effort or activity on the part of the patient may result in heart failure.
- 5) Do not give stimulants or opiates. Send for a medical officer at once and do not leave the patient until he has adequate medical care.





Do not stop artificial respiration until medical authority pronounces the victim beyond help!

Important phone numbers:







Keep in mind:

- □ Remember that the 230 V power supply voltage is not low, relatively harmless voltage, but is the voltage that has caused many deaths.
- □ Never plug in electric machinery without insuring that the source voltage is the same as that called for on the nameplate of the machine.
- □ Never try to clear jammed machinery without first cutting off the source of power.
- □ Do not work with high voltage circuits alone; have another person (safety observer), who is qualified in first aid for electrical shock, present at all times.

Note:

To call emergency services in the USA you would dial telephone number 911. The number equivalent type of emergency service in the European Union is 112.

VOCABULARY

muscular spasm – svalové kŕče
muscular effort – svalová námaha
victim – obeť, postihnutý
alert – ostražitý
capable of rendering – schopnosť poskytnúť
investigation – vyšetrovanie, zistenie
injury – úraz, zranenie
responsibility – zodpovednosť, spoľahlivosť
unconscious – v bezvedomí, neúmyselný
shock – zásah, úder, rana, náraz, šok, otras
throwing – skrútenie, otočenie
harmless – neškodný
jammed machinery – zaseknutý stroj