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CONTRACTOR CORNER

Five Keys to a Successful Safety Program

- 1 Make an investment.** Contractors need to make the commitment to get electricians what they need to do their job safely and properly, says James Fox, corporate safety director for Ludvik Electric..
- 2 Communicate with your employees.** Be fair and consistent with electricians in the field, advises R.J. Pizzi, safety director for Capital Electric. If they're not following the safety protocols, try follow-up training, and if that doesn't work, use verbal or written warnings.
- 3 Don't work hot.** Juanita Kirkpatrick, safety and risk manager for Rex Moore Electrical Contractors & Engineers in Sacramento, CA, says her entire staff is committed to following a rigorous authorization procedure before working on energized equipment.
- 4 Make electricians a part of your safety program.** Capital Electric invites a dozen employees—from first-year apprentices to veteran foremen—to monthly committee meetings to brainstorm ways to improve safety and productivity.
- 5 Learn from any accidents.** While every contractor strives for no accidents, injuries do happen. When one of their electricians is involved in a near-miss or accident, Capital Electric conducts a thorough investigation.

FROM CONCEPT THROUGH CONSTRUCTION

Safety is #1 for Top Firms

About 350 electrical-related fatalities occur every year, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). To prevent one of their electricians from becoming part of this statistic, contractors are investing their time and resources into safety programs.

In Kansas City, MO, the electricians working for Capital Electric Construction all wear red hard hats that read, "I Am Safety." Everyone in the company—from the president to the first-year electrical apprentice — lives by this slogan, says R.J. Pizzi, safety director.

"Safety is our top priority and we integrate safety into everything we do," he says. "If a contractor has too many accidents, the company can't get work and it has a huge impact on the whole workforce, the employees, and their families."

Safety Talks

Electricians face many hazards on a jobsite, from working in confined spaces to the risk of falls. While construction can be a dangerous occupation, contractors are minimizing hazards through jobsite safety meetings.

"Typically, we try to keep the subject of the talk in line with what they're doing on the jobsite," says Charles Winder, safety director for Hatzel & Buehler in Wilmington, DE. "It could be about chemical hazards, dust, ladder safety, or fire protection."

Proper Tools and Equipment

Another important component of many contractors' safety programs is personal protective equipment (PPE). Lakewood, CO-based Ludvik Electric equips its electricians with flame-retardant clothing to protect against arc flash hazards.

"We have furnished it for years, and we will continue to do so," says James Fox, corporate safety director for Ludvik, which provides shields, blankets, flame-retardant suits, and gloves.

Portland, OR-based Oregon Electric Group, which also provides PPE to its employees, has the goal of being 100 percent injury-free through its safety program, says George Normine, safety director.

"Our employees want safety to be an everyday occurrence, and they want to go home at the end of each day with all their fingers and toes," he says.

Look Inside for products to help your company prevent accidents and promote safety.



Comments from Bill, Jim:



Bill Cenk
VP Industrial/
Construction East



Jim Griffin
VP Industrial/
Construction West

WESCO has stood behind our commitment to electrical safety for the past 86 years. For our customers, safety is a top priority, and we work to keep on the cutting edge of the latest tools, technology, standards, and codes.

Through training sessions at our local branches, we impart this knowledge to our customers to keep electricians safe in the field. Our branch managers and account representatives are experts on electrical safety, and they make sure their customers have the proper tools and equipment to get the job done safely.

WESCO always has the proper tools in stock to help protect electricians against arc flash hazards, electrocution and falls. We know that the construction industry presents many hazards, and our branches are here to help protect electricians from accidents and near-misses.

To help protect our customers, our branches work closely with testing agencies to make sure equipment is in good working order. WESCO's suppliers can also perform an arc flash analysis to determine the proper rating of flame-retardant clothing and gear for electricians.

Through our products and services, WESCO is focused on electrical safety and the well being of our customers. For our company, safety has been, and will always be, number one.

WESCO

One-Stop Shop for Safety Products

"Electrical safety tops the list of priorities for many electrical contracting firms," says Mike Simpson, WESCO Dallas Branch manager.

"One of my clients told me that his employees were part of his family and he didn't want to see any of them get hurt on the job," he says.

To help you safeguard your electricians in the field, WESCO provides a wide variety of products and services. Here are five ways we can help you and your business.

Training

WESCO Branches offer many vendor training sessions on everything from the latest tools to arc flash protection. Brandi Rathman, WESCO Branch manager in Deer Park, TX, says, "Suppliers train electricians on arc flash and overall safety. They also have sessions on safety apparel such as hard hats, safety glasses, and ear plugs."

"A big part of the way WESCO helps contractors be safe is by setting up training sessions on a regular basis with national accounts," she says. "We provide them with training, guidance, and follow-up information through our manufacturer meetings onsite."

Traveling Trade Show

To help protect electricians working in industrial plants, WESCO sponsors on-site trade shows. Simpson says a plant normally invites about five vendors of lockout/tagout or arc flash protection equipment to showcase their products.

"We take products that are safety related to familiarize the electricians and maintenance employees with what new items may be available," he says.

Testing

Another way that WESCO helps electricians stay safe in the field is through testing of high-voltage gloves, mats, and hot sticks. This equipment needs to be tested every six months to make sure it meets safety standards. WESCO helps contractors to meet this requirement through its partnership with testing companies.

"Rather than making our customers remember the time frame, we go to their main warehouse and we'll take all gloves and test them on a regular basis," she says. "We'll keep it on the schedule for them and replace the ones that are being tested."

Publications

WESCO publishes an Arc Flash Safety Guide for contractors. This publication gives customers a quick glance at all the products WESCO offers to keep electricians safe.



WESCO also offers the 2008 National Electrical Code® as well as UGLY's Electrical Reference Book, an on-the-job, pocket-sized guide of electrical information.



Single-Source Supplier

WESCO constantly reviews its vendor list to make sure that only the products from the top manufacturers are available through the distribution chain. By offering a variety of electrical and safety products, contractors can get everything they need in one place, Rathman says.

"WESCO serves as a single-source supplier to our clients to help them reduce downtime and overall spending on maintenance," she says. "If they cut one purchase order to us for everything, they'll reduce their overall spending."

For more information on WESCO's safety solutions, go to www.wesco.com and use the Branch locator to contact your local WESCO Branch.



STRUCTUREDGROUND™ Direct Burial Compression Grounding System

Meets the most stringent industry standards while offering unmatched ease of installation and safety.



Why Does This Matter?

Grounding is a critical functioning part of the electrical system. The integrity of your grounding system is dependent upon your connectors withstanding the environment in which they are installed. Achieving this reliability, while maximizing safety and speeding installation ensures a grounding system that will provide you with the greatest value.

With the *STRUCTUREDGROUND* Direct Burial Compression Grounding System, you benefit from a connector that:

- Meets the highest performance specification in the industry
- Reduces labor costs by increasing speed of installation
- Ensures safety in any weather condition
- Optimizes procurement by minimizing investment in tooling and inventory
- Offers improved crimp quality
- Has patented design to assure high-quality mechanical and electrical bond

PANDUIT® is committed to developing innovative solutions that meet the needs of your electrical and networking installations. As a global leader in wiring and communications solutions, *PANDUIT*® provides everything you need to bundle, route, protect, terminate, and identify electrical and network cabling. *PANDUIT*® solutions are backed by the highest quality and service levels in the industry. Specialized contractor programs further support your business needs and project requirements.

COOPER Wiring Devices

Cooper Wiring Devices, a division of Cooper Industries, is a leading worldwide manufacturer of electrical products for commercial, industrial, and residential markets. Some highlights to our extensive product offering include the following safety products to meet your electrical needs.

GFCI

Cooper Wiring Devices' complete line of ShockSentry™ GFCIs is UL Listed and fully compliant with those standards. We conduct stringent multi-step 100% performance testing as well as additional proprietary testing. Multi-step 100% quality checks are also conducted during and post-production. The result is the highest quality, safest line of GFCIs on the market.



Portable GFCI

Portable GFCIs provide all the benefits of GFCI protection with the added convenience of portable versatility. Cooper Wiring Devices offers a complete line of portable GFCIs perfect for construction site, agricultural process, industrial plant and service equipment applications.



Featured Supplier Partners & Products

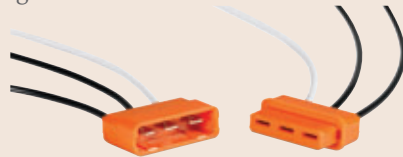
WESCO provides superior products and services from 6,000 core suppliers and has relationships with 18,000 more. Our broad selection of products from industry-leading suppliers enables us to meet virtually all of our contractors' requirements.

Thomas & Betts

Making sure electricians, installation technicians, and contractors are equipped with the tools they need to do their job efficiently and safely is a fundamental goal of Thomas & Betts. That's why we offer a wide assortment of the highest quality products for electrical construction, installation, and maintenance.

Sta-Kon® Luminaire Disconnect

- UL® Listed and CSA Certified for use on linear and compact fluorescent light fixtures
- Easy installation because integral lead wire is included
- Positive latch tells installer that the connector is fully mated



Sta-Kon®

T&B® GUP Explosion-Proof Box

- Compact design ideal for gas station construction
- Class I, Div 1 & 2 Group C & D rated
- O-rings are standard on all boxes



T&B

Shrink-Kon® Self-Fusing Insulation Tape

- Quick and easy insulation — no heat or adhesive required
- Just two layers form a watertight seal, that's dielectric strength and abrasion resistant
- Creates an immediate, permanent bond even when wet

Shrink-Kon®



Color-Keyed® E-Z Ground® Compression Connectors

- Easy, fast, reliable, and safe options for installing grounding grid
- Compression-style connectors eliminate the possibility of burns and related injuries that may occur with more common exothermic grounding installations



Color-Keyed®

Blackburn® Direct Burial Splice Kit

- Splice cables up to 600 volts
- UF Kit features: a 4-in-1 connector to support four-conductor, three-phase plus neutral or single-phase wiring systems
- Non-UF Kit offers an easy-to-install, one-piece, aluminum-alloy connector



Blackburn®

Blackburn Intersystem Bonding Termination Meter Box Ground Clamp

- Meets the new code requirements of 2008 NEC® Section 250.94 for intersystem bonding termination
- Two-piece steel clamp bracket mounts vertically or horizontally without interfering with meter box cover removal
- Provides convenient, reliable grounding for coaxial or telephone drop wire runs

Blackburn®



Blackburn Lay-in Lug

- Perfect for swimming pool grounding applications
- Dual rated for both copper and aluminum conductors
- UL® Listed for direct burial

Blackburn®



BRADY®

Temporary Signs

- Professional looking, temporary signs warn of possible hazards in a cost-effective way
- Constructed of lightweight corrugated plastic material



Tagging Systems*

Scafftag

- Scafftag provides system, procedural, and legal compliance
- Provide a clear inspection trail giving integrity and control of work carried out



* Forklift tags also available — call for details.



Ladder Tag

Complete ladder safety management system

- Help eliminate accidents and improve inspection management processes



Personal Valve & Electrical Lockout Kit

- Provides everything you need to lockout breakers, plugs, and valves of various types and sizes



WESCO's Electrical Safety Guide

Featuring

A ARC FLASH

B GROUND FAULT

C HARSH ENVIRONMENTS

Contact your local WESCO Branch for more information.





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Toolbox Talks, Edition 3 coming soon featuring Emergency Preparedness!



Workplace Safety Hot Products

A WESCO publication

WESCO offers a complete line of tools, safety, and non-electrical MRO solutions and products:

-  Safety Signals
-  Lockout/Tagout
-  HVAC Equipment
-  Hand Tools
-  Batteries
-  And much more...

For more information, download a copy at www.wesco.com/construction.