Sandia National Laboratories

Construction News Sense

FACILITIES Management and Operations Center

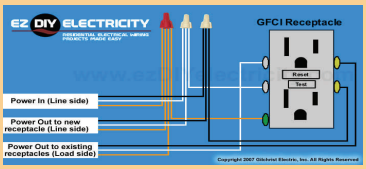
November 2009

Holiday Safety

The holiday season is coming. What does that have to do with safety at work? More than you might think. A lot of us will decorate our homes for the holidays. We are constantly being reminded about safety at work through the Quarterly Construction Safety Meetings, the Construction News Sense, BBS observations, Tool Box Talks, and other means. What reminds you at home? Do you leave what you learn at Sandia at work or do you take it home with you? I hope you take it with you always, especially at this time of the year. It's easy to be distracted by all the excitement of your kids' school and church plays, visitors, family get-togethers, and such.

Let's talk about ladder safety, for example. Is your ladder in good shape or is it that old wooden ladder that your granddad used for years? You know the one I'm talking about. The bottom rung is missing, but you can step over that, and it doesn't wiggle too much, if you don't lean to the left too far. Besides, it was good enough for granddad, wasn't it? Now you wouldn't bring it to Sandia to use, so why are you using it at home? (And letting your kids watch.) OK, so you retired your granddad's old wooden ladder, and you're going to use your dad's newer metal ladder. It's in good shape. It's long enough to extend three feet above your work surface. It even still has the slip-resistant feet on it. You even set the ladder up at about a 75-degree angle on a firm and level surface. You're doing great. Your young son is watching all this and soaking it up. Oh by the way, where are your home's power lines? Remember, metal and electricity don't mix. Make sure the only thing you roast this holiday is the turkey.

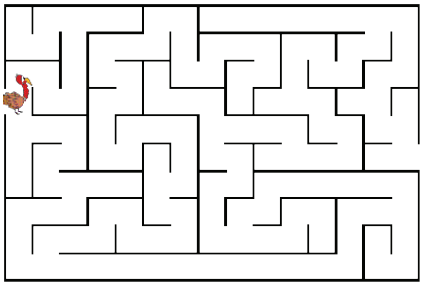
All right, you have installed holiday lights on your house. Now its time to plug them in and fire them up. Let's hope they don't confuse the pilots. Is your outside outlet a GFCI? It looks like one, but is it wired correctly? After I bought my house, which was inspected, I found an outlet that was wired for 220 volts. Buy a tester, and check your outlet. If the outlet is not a GFCI, is it protected by a GFCI breaker or another GFCI? If you don't know, ask an electrician to look at it. Be sure, not dead.



We have all heard stories about someone getting hurt or even killed at home during the holidays. Falling through a skylight, getting electrocuted, and other mishaps could be avoided just by using the safety rules that we use everyday at work. So please think before you act, plan your work, and you and your families enjoy the holidays.

Boyd Smith, BBS Construction Steering Committee

Hurry ... Save me from becoming Thanksgiving dinner!



Sandia National Laboratories

NNSA

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What Should You Do About Radiological Hazards For Construction and Service Work?

We generally do not associate construction and service operations with radiological hazards; however, opportunities exist for interaction in certain locations.

When it comes to radiological concerns in the work area, it is important to discuss them with the FMOC Radiological Control Technician (RCT). Contact the Radiation Protection department (which includes the FMOC RCT) for all work within or around any radiological posting. A Job Site Hazard Evaluation (JSHE) is required for any work in a posted area. Although a JSHE may not be required for the work, the discussion with the FMOC RCT ensures that the appropriate controls and notifications are made.

Major topics to look for are the following:

- Gaining access to the roof of a posted building for repairs. A control might be a locked ladder cover. A roof can be a posted as a Controlled Area. Look around, and ask questions.
- Gaining access to a roof with an aerial lift can also land you in a Controlled Area, if you do not take the time to read the signage.
- Project Managers are required to give contractors a JSHE for work in posted areas. Stop work and ask for a JSHE, if you are required to go into a posted area. Make sure you request a JSHE if one is not given to you if you are required to enter a posted area.
- Report areas that have unclear postings.

The purpose of a JSHE is to identify, evaluate, and provide controls for Environmental Safety and Health (ES&H) hazards for existing job site conditions prior to performing the FMOC-managed construction, warranty, or maintenance work. Requirements and recommendations for safe work practices, environmental protection measures, and personal protective equipment (PPE) for existing hazards are included. The requester works with the JSHE Coordinator to evaluate the hazards.

What can the JSHE process do for you around radiological postings? Keep you safe, informed, and in compliance with Sandia National Laboratories rules and requirements. Your safety is the most important job you have. If you ever have a question about whether all of the hazards of a job have been planned for, ASK. If something in the field does not seem right or makes you wonder, ASK. Remember, your safety comes first.

Chris Williams, FMOC RCT

New E-Verify Process Coming

Sandia is voluntarily implementing E-Verify for its new hires. E-verify is an Internet-based system operated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). It is used by employers to verify employment eligibility of employees. The E-Verify process does not apply to people with the HSPD-12 credential. E-Verify only confirms an individual's legal status; it does not verify U.S. citizenship. Badging requirements for foreign nationals are still in effect. Sandia's Procurement Department will require the E-Verify process for subcontractors with service or construction contracts worth more than $3,000. Here is a web site link to LawLogix, if you would like to find out more about E-Verify.

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