A NECA contractor is your single source for all electrical and integrated building systems—a local professional who understands what your facility needs and provides innovative solutions based on the latest technologies. To find a NECA contractor, visit www.necaconnection.org
Teen Workers

Summer jobs are a good way to make some extra cash, but did you know they can be dangerous too? There are potential dangers, especially when you work around electricity. Electrocution is one of the most common causes of teen worker injury and death, so learn the risks now and stay safe all summer. Because when it comes to working around electricity, YOU HAVE TO LEARN BEFORE YOU EARN!

AROUND WATER

Landscaping, pool cleaning, and even disaster recovery (like cleaning up from Hurricane Katrina) can have you working in a wet environment where electrical hazards can be amplified.

- Water and electricity NEVER mix. Whether you are cleaning a pool near overhead wires or washing dishes near electronic equipment, never get water and electricity anywhere near each other.

IN THE AIR

Any work like painting or carpentry that requires working on a ladder means you’ve got to watch out for electrical danger while not losing your balance.

- Always be aware of your location in relation to electrical lines. Contact with an electrical line could be fatal.
- Electricity also exists in nature as lightning. Don’t work outdoors or near water or metal when you see lightning. Even lightning that appears to be far off is a deadly hazard.

ON (OR UNDER) THE GROUND

Outside or inside, electrical cords and outlets can give you a shock if they’re damaged or not grounded. Watch out for:

- Marks indicating buried power lines
- Frayed or patched extension cords
- Damaged outlets (receptacles)

COMMON SENSE

Summer work is a great opportunity, and NECA hopes it’s rewarding for you in both experience and earnings. Here are a couple of tips for keeping safe around electricity year-round:

- DON’T TEMPT FATE.
- TAKE THE PROPER PRECAUTIONS, USE THE RIGHT SAFETY GEAR.
- WHEN YOU SEE A HAZARD, POINT IT OUT TO SOMEONE.

Want to explore a career in electrical work? Go to www.electrifyingcareers.com for more info.

For Employers

Unfortunately, electrocution is an all too common cause of death and injury for teen workers, especially those you may hire for the summer. NECA wants to help you keep your workers and your job site safe.

- Employers have the responsibility to provide safe equipment, tools, and protective gear for all employees, as well as basic safety training. Your best resource for summer worker safety is “Teen Workers” at www.osha.gov
- Be responsive to a worker’s questions or concerns about electricity. They don’t have the same knowledge and experience that you do.
- Train workers to look all around before for potential hazards before they start a new task. This helps raise the awareness of young, unsuspecting employees.
- Pay special attention to the hazards related to working around water and overhead power lines. Many workers don’t realize how close the electrical connection from a high-voltage line may be to where they’re working.

It’s your responsibility to keep these kids safe. There’s no better investment than your employees’ safety. Provide training and protective gear, and your summer teen helper could become the best worker you ever hire.