Responding to an Electrical Emergency

Electrical Injuries

Move the victim away from power safely...
Never touch a person who is in contact with a source of electricity.

- If possible, turn off the power before touching the victim.
- If you can't turn the power off, use a nonconducting tool, such as a rope or wooden stick, to move the person.
- Make sure you don't complete a circuit between two wires or between one wire and the ground while moving a victim.
- If the victim is touching a power line, stay clear and call for help.

After the victim is away from the power source...

- Check breathing and pulse. Give EAR or CPR if necessary only if you've been trained. Otherwise, get immediate medical help.
- Continue EAR or CPR until medical help arrives.

- Treat minor burns at the point of contact with cool water, then cover with a clean, dry cloth.
- Cover serious burns with a sterile dry cloth and get immediate medical attention.
- Never use ointment, ice or butter on a burn.
- Never try to remove clothing from burned skin.
- Treat victim for shock by keeping him or her lying down with feet elevated until help arrives.

Electrical Fires

- Use a class E fire extinguisher, or foam on small electrical fires.
- Never use water on an electrical fire
- If the fire is large or growing rapidly, follow your company's plan for evacuation.

Preparing for Emergencies

- Know your worksite's emergency exits and escape routes.
- Know the location of fire extinguishers and posted emergency phone numbers.
- Take a course in CPR - you could save a life.