



Electrical Safety

May is [National Electrical Safety Month](#), a time to learn and refamiliarize yourself with electrical hazards in the workplace and to understand the best practices to prevent injuries (e.g., burns, shock, and electrocution) and property damage from fires. Here are a

few tips to keep you safe.

1. Use GFCIs (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) in areas where water is present, such as bathrooms, mechanical rooms, and outdoor environments.

- **Improperly grounded** power tools and equipment can cause serious injury. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are built into cords and outlets to protect you from injury and must be used where water is present, such as in bathrooms, mechanical rooms, and outdoor environments.
- **Modifying or overriding** safety features on electrical tools and equipment, such as removing an electrical plug grounding prong, creates a potential shock hazard. Always use tools and equipment as designed and intended.

Tips for Success When Talking to Your Team

Preparation is Key: Keep the topic relevant to your work. Work with your team to review potential electrical hazards in your work area and discuss the required procedures for the work tasks.

Stay Positive: Keep the focus on what can be done to create a safe workplace instead of focusing on what has gone wrong in the past.

Share a Story, Ask for a Story: Storytelling is a powerful method to convey information. Stories from your employees make the topic even more relatable.

For Additional Information Contact Environmental Health and Safety at ehs@northwestern.edu.

Do you or your team have a safety story you'd like to share? Contact Environmental Health and Safety for details.