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## **ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

It is an undeniable fact that electricity is integral part of modern live. Every day we are surrounded with different equipment and appliances operate on electricity and all of them despite of all visible safety are potentially hazardous and can cause serious shock and burn injuries. Carelessness, misuse and improper safety precautions increase the risk of getting mutilations. Many people think that risk of being injured is mostly related to appliances with questionable quality, old ones or ones that have visible bare wires or wires with damaged insulation. However, it is a delusion. The voltage of the electricity and the available electrical current in regular businesses and homes has enough power to cause death by electrocution. The major hazards associated with electricity are electrical shock, fire and arc flash. Electrical shock occurs when the body becomes part of the electric circuit, either when an individual comes in contact with both wires of an electrical circuit, one wire of an energized circuit and the ground, or a metallic part that has become energized by contact with an electrical conductor. Even changing a light bulb without unplugging the lamp can be hazardous because coming in contact with the "hot", "energized" or "live" part of the socket could kill a person.

The severity and effects of an electrical shock depend on a number of factors, such as the pathway through the body, the amount of current, the length of time of the exposure, and whether the skin is wet or dry. Water is a great conductor of electricity, allowing current to flow more easily in wet conditions and through wet skin. The effect of the shock may range from a slight tingle to severe burns to cardiac arrest.

The current will enter the body at one point and leave at another and this passage of electricity can cause great pain, burns, and even death.

Now, let's consider some tips that will help to reduce risk of getting injuries during operating electrical appliances:

1. Use only equipment that is properly grounded or double-insulated.
2. Do not overload outlets;
3. Only use equipment that has been tested and certified;
4. Do not use electrical equipment or appliances near water or wet surfaces;
5. Never use electrical equipment when your hands or the equipment is wet;
6. Unplug or disconnect machines before servicing or repairing, and check to make sure the machine is actually disconnected and turned off prior to service;
7. Inspect cords and equipment regularly, and report any defects immediately;
8. Do not ignore warning signs. If an apparatus feels hot, makes an unusual noise (buzz or hum), smokes or sparks, take it out of service immediately and tag it "Do Not Use". Incorrectly operating apparatus is much dangerous than the broken down one that doesn't work;
9. Do not carry or lift up electrical equipment by power cord, it isn't intended for such purposes and could be torn easily;
10. Never repair electrical cords or equipment unless qualified and authorized.

To sum up, you should be careful using electrical appliances, regardless of the kind you use, how new or old it is, how much it costs or how safe it look. It is also important to read and follow instructions if you use something for the first time.