

18. Electrocution

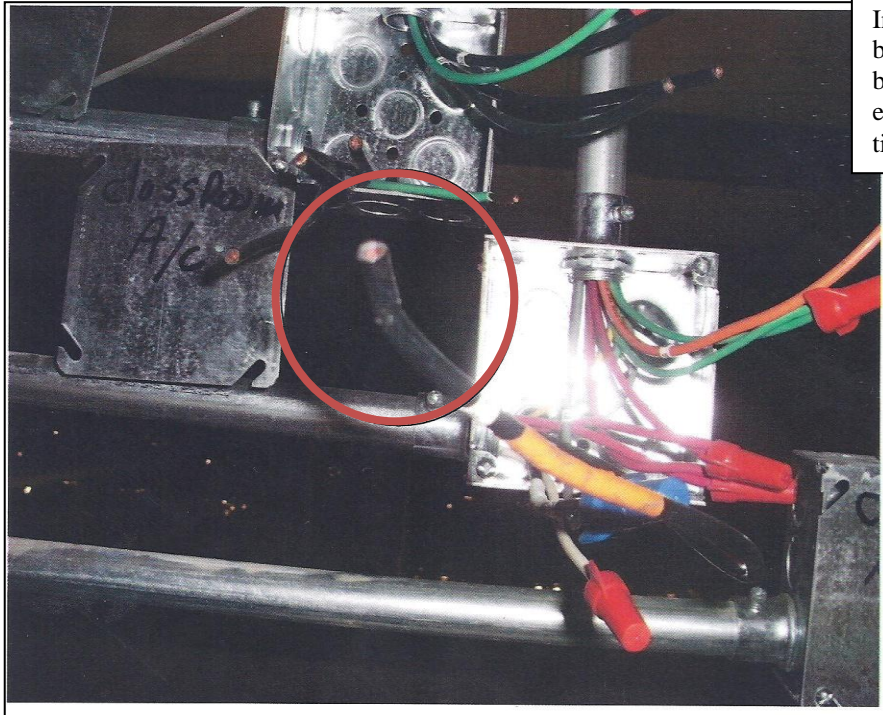
A **48-year-old** electrician was killed when he contacted live electrical wires. During renovation work at an elementary school, the electrical contractor was to remove conduit and wires controlling the lighting system for two classrooms. This was so that structural steel to be added into the ceiling area as part of a storm-safe area could be installed. Upon arrival at the site, the contract employees located the circuit breakers controlling each area where they were to remove conduit and wiring and turned the breakers to the “off” position at the control panel. They also placed black electrical tape over each of the three breakers to designate them as out of service. Over the next month-and-a-half the employees worked at the site and also on other jobs assigned to them. On the day of the fatality, the employees arrived at the site to pull wires inside the new conduit to power the lights to the two classrooms. Before starting the work the two employees, the victim and a co-worker, discussed the work plan, which included pulling wires for the new conduit and testing the wires with a multi-meter, labeling and connecting them to the proper circuit. The wiring was pulled from inside the classroom junction boxes to the junction in the ceiling area where the wires had been cut during the removal stage and where terminations of new wires pulled would be made with wires coming from the control panel. While one employee left the site for an extended lunch, the victim began to terminate wires in the ceiling area that had been pulled that morning. As the victim began stripping the wires, he was electrocuted because the wire was actually live. It was discovered that the breaker for the circuit the victim was attempting to connect had been turned to the “on” position at the control panel, but with the electrical tape still in position. When the co-worker returned from lunch, he discovered the victim in the ceiling where wires were to be re-connected. Emergency services were called but the victim did not survive.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

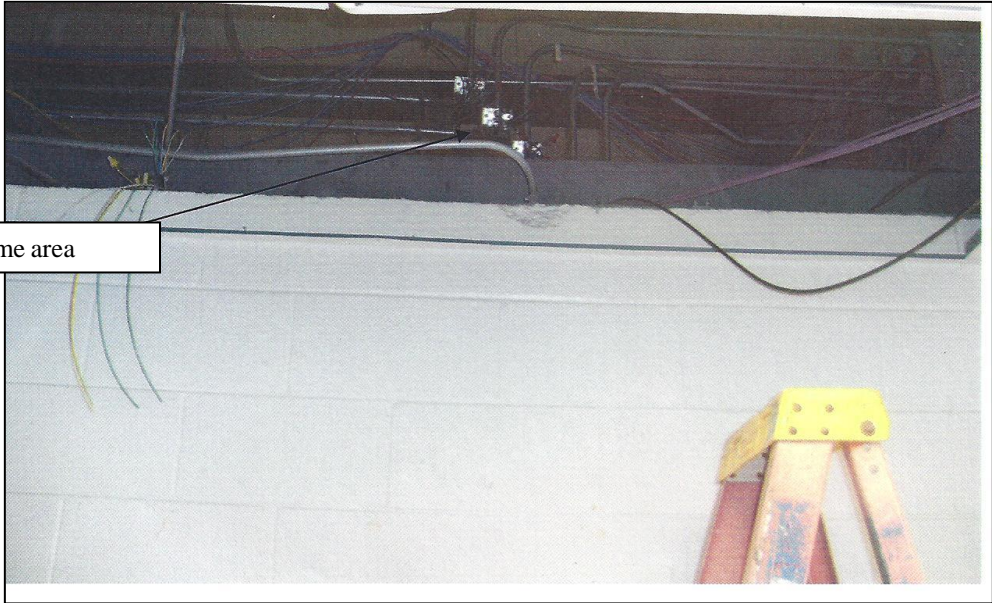
Citation 1

Item 1a 1926.21(b)(2)	The employer did not instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.
Item 1b 1926.417(b)	Equipment or circuits that were de-energized were not rendered inoperative or did not have tags attached at all points where such equipment or circuits could be energized.
Item 2 1926.416(a)(3)	Before work began, the employer did not ascertain by inquiry, direct observation, or by instruments, whether any part of an energized electric power circuit, exposed or concealed, was so located that the performance of the work could bring a person, tool, or machine into physical or electrical contact with the energized electric power circuit.

See Photos on Next Page



Inside circle is the black wire that had been cut and was energized at the time of the incident



Pull out view of the same area