

# MAY is Electrical Safety Month

As more of our workforce is returning to the workplace, the [EFCOG Electrical Safety Task Group](#) has developed some guidance for what to do as we continue to balance COVID-19 controls with electrical safe work practices.



## Face Coverings

- With face coverings being a common requirement, be aware that their use may cause some unexpected issues in your work.
- Glasses may fog, you may have visibility issues, and coverings must be made of natural fibers.

## What to do

- Make sure your mask is arc rated or made of natural fibers.
- Find a mask that fits snugly around the nose (this helps prevent fogging).
- Use approved anti-fog products on the lenses of your glasses.



## Routine Change

- For many of us, our daily routine has been recalibrated to working at home and not on site.
- Coming back on site will cause you to need to adjust your daily routines, and that can be a challenge.

## What to do

- Utilize available checklists to ensure critical steps aren't skipped.
- Conduct QUALITY pre-job briefings so that everyone is on the same page.
- Confer with peers or supervisor if you are struggling.



## Disinfectant Use

- Use of disinfectants are critical in stopping the spread of viruses.
- We need to be aware of how these disinfectants could possibly react with our PPE ( a line of defense that cannot be compromised).

## What to do

- Read ingredient list and check PPE documentation
- Consult with PPE manufacturer for approved disinfectant methods
- Remember that your PPE is critical and must be in excellent condition and inspect before use.



## Out of Practice

- Many have not performed routine field work in over a year.
- Some jobs that were routine in the past may not be as familiar now.
- However, we need to do everything we can to get back to our regular job duties.

## What to do

- Be patient and don't rush
- Perform your risk assessment
- Request additional training
- Be aware of distractions, both personal and professional
- Confer with peers or your supervisor
- Stop work if any situation may become unsafe





### Know Yourself

- Be aware of how you are feeling. There may be times on the job where you become tired, frustrated, confused, or anxious.
- Self-awareness is critical. Ignoring these signs can jeopardize your safety.

### What to do

- Practice self awareness
- Use 30/30/30 rule
- Take a break if you feel tired or are unsure
- Don't ignore the signs that may put your safety at risk



### New Controls

- The pandemic has brought about many new controls and processes that may take some adjustment.
- Controls such as face covering usage and social distancing requirements may take some getting used to.

### What to do

- Follow all required controls and processes
- Talk with peers and supervisors about these controls
- Remind yourself of the protocols you must take
- Be patient with yourself, these will become part of your daily routine



### Your Supervisor

- There may be times where you have limited contact with (or oversight from) your supervisor.
- This may not be a comfortable situation, especially as you are getting used to being back on site and into your normal routine.

### What to do

- Utilize pre-job or daily briefings to ask any questions you may have; be specific about your needs
- Contact your supervisor, if needed
- Use peer checks
- Use available checklists



### Training

- Working from home may have put you behind in completing your training requirements.
- Be mindful of lapsed or new training and schedule any necessary (or voluntary) training as soon as you can.

### What to do

- Be aware of any lapsed training
- Be aware of any NEW training you must complete
- Do not hesitate to request any additional training you may need to help you
- Complete any trainings due as soon as possible



## In Conclusion

- Don't be in a hurry
  - Work methodically within your training and controls
- Have respect for others and the new processes
- Pay attention to your mental health
- Pause and report any anomalies, injuries or events
- Include your SMEs to help make decisions

