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Test for voltage before you work – It could save your life

Accidents and fatalities can be reduced if workers:

1. Carefully check to ensure voltage is disconnected before doing any work on electrical equipment.
2. Ensure that the voltage testers they are using have been "Approved" and meet the minimum standards for safety. (Approved Testers are marked - CAN/CSA-C22.2 No. 231.0 or C22.2 No. 1010). This is required by the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, Rule 2-034 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Use of an unapproved voltage tester is a violation of Ontario Electrical Safety Code Rules 2-034 and 2-306 and may result in charges being laid under the Electricity Act.

Important steps that could save your life:

- When working on equipment always follow the proper "LOCKOUT" procedure required by both your company and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Use an Approved Voltage Tester, certified to a CSA Standard.
- Always do sufficient tests with an approved voltage tester to ensure the equipment is not energized.
Or
- Have "visible isolation of the contact surfaces" of the disconnecting device so you can ensure the equipment you are working on is not energized.

To ensure that you have conducted "sufficient tests":

1. Measure a known voltage source (to ensure you have bonding and the meter works)
 2. Ensure there is no voltage on the load side of all contacts of the isolating device (ensures contacts are actually open).
 3. Follow lock out and tag out procedures to ensure voltage cannot be reconnected while you are working on the equipment.
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