



SAFE OVER SUMMER

Working with Electricity

Hard FM

Working around electricity is part of daily maintenance — from lighting repairs to switchboard inspections. The biggest risk isn't always direct contact, it's what you don't see: hidden cables, energised panels, and assumptions that a circuit is isolated when it's not.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot

- Live circuits inside switchboards and ceiling spaces
- Arc flash during fault-finding or switching
- Damaged cords, overloaded boards and temporary leads
- Contact with hidden services during drilling or cutting
- Wet or conductive surfaces increasing shock risk
- Fatigue and time pressure leading to shortcuts

Downer



Discuss / Share:

Where are your main exposure points on site?

How do you verify isolation before starting work?



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Critical Controls

- Never work live — isolate, lock, tag and test for dead
- Use electrical permits for complex or high-risk tasks
- Confirm hidden services before penetration
- Inspect leads, cords, and tools before every use
- Ensure RCD protection is active on all portable tools
- Maintain exclusion zones and signage around boards
- Keep LV rescue kit and task-rated PPE available

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Discuss / Share:

What's your process when a fault trips a breaker — fix fast or verify isolation first?