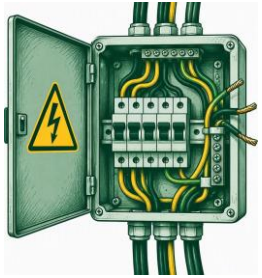
Working with Electricity (Hard FM)

Electrical maintenance includes lighting repairs and switchboard inspections. Hidden cables and energised panels create risks when isolation is assumed.

Never work live. Isolate, lock, tag and test for dead. Treat all cables as live.

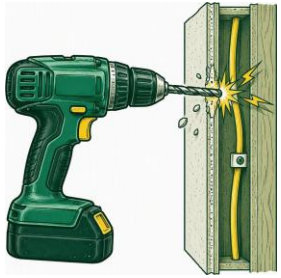
Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Live circuits in switchboards and ceiling spaces**
- **Arc flash during fault-finding or switching**



- **Damaged cords, overloaded boards and temporary leads**
- **Wet or conductive surfaces increasing shock risk**



- **Hidden services during drilling or cutting**
- **Fatigue and time pressure leading to shortcuts**

Where might this happen in our work environment?



Lighting repairs: electrical maintenance can involve hidden cables and assumptions that a circuit is isolated.



Switchboards and ceiling spaces: live circuits may be present during inspections, fault-finding or switching.



Drilling or cutting: contact with hidden services can create an electrical risk.

Where else?

Where are your main electrical exposure points on site?

What can we check to protect?

1. **Is the circuit safely isolated?**
   Never work live. Isolate, lock, tag and test for dead. Treat all cables as live.
2. **Are the task and area ready?**
   Use electrical permits for complex or high-risk tasks. Confirm hidden services before penetration. Maintain exclusion zones and signage around boards.
3. **Are tools and protection ready?**
   Inspect leads, cords, and tools before every use. Ensure RCD protection is active on all portable tools. Keep LV rescue kit and task-rated PPE available.

How do you verify isolation before starting work?

Your safety comes first

The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

Ask for support when:

You’re unsure

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

Something happens

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

You need support

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

Do you know who is your HSW Business Partner?

Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.