



TOOLBOX TALKS

FOUR MINDSETS THAT CAUSE ACCIDENTS

Job site safety is an ever-present issue that is a constant threat in any working environment. The greatest way to prevent accidents is to train people how to reduce the risk to zero or how to put controls in place that will limit the possibility of an accident. Workplace accidents can be dramatically reduced with the correct mindset and attitude by recognising four common errors that open the door to injury:

RUSHING

Employees often feel constant pressure to complete tasks as quickly as possible so that they can move onto the next task or finish the day early. Rushing reduces the quality of workmanship and increases the chances of not following the correct safety steps to complete tasks. Accidents increase on Fridays, holiday weekends or when jobs are behind schedule. It's important to remind employees that working safety is the first priority, even if it means finishing the job later.

FRUSTRATION

Frustration is a mindset that almost everybody experiences at some point in life. Having the right tools to manage frustration and turn negatives into positives is key to being able to avoid accidents and injuries. Creating a workplace that prevents frustration from developing is key. Employees can get frustrated at poor procedures, bad communication, wrong or insufficient materials and problems at home.

FATIGUE

Fatigue greatly reduces production and performance. A tired driver is said to be as dangerous on the road as a drunk driver, which illustrates the dangers of fatigue. It is very important to identify when a worker is fatigued to take the correct cause of action. To avoid fatigue, employees should not overwork or work overly long hours. Businesses have to set realistic deadlines and attainable goals for employees. Fatigue increases accidents by 62%. See [Master Electricians Fatigue Impairment Prevention Guide](#).

COMPLACENCY

Complacency can be the most dangerous mindset that results in an injury or accident. **The first step to an accident involves the false belief that experience makes you invulnerable.** Accidents can happen to anybody at any time and one's sense should always be finely tuned to each situation's risks. A false sense of security is the result of poor training and following bad practices, which leads to accidents. Managers should be quick to intervene when boredom results in complacency. These mindsets can cause or contribute to critical errors which increase the probability of injury.

Almost all accidents in the electrical industry relate to two factors:

1. A lack of Adequate supervision – (which relates to competency).
2. A lack of isolation or inadequate isolation procedures.

Supervision and work that apprentices can do.

- Conditions of their licence.
The holder of a Trainee Limited Certificate can only complete prescribed electrical work within the limits of work for the class their Limited Certificate has been issued and **must** be supervised by their Board approved supervisor.
Regulation 93 of the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 states that any prescribed electrical work a trainee may do, or assist in doing, is any work that is within the particular class of work for which the trainee is seeking registration, and that is within the scope of work that the trainee's supervisor is authorised to do.
- As per their competency.
 - What is competency:
Skills/Knowledge/Experience
- Each apprentice **must** know who your supervisor is, if they don't then they don't have one and are working unsupervised and in breach of their licence.