

DMM Safety Alert: Electrical Equipment and Wiring

Electricity can be a serious hazard. Every year, hundreds of people are injured and killed in accidents caused by contact with electrical current. The Virginia Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) requires mine operators to maintain electrical equipment and wiring in safe operating condition. A competent person, who possesses the necessary knowledge and experience, must inspect electrical equipment and wiring as often as necessary to ensure safe operating conditions (4VAC25-40-2270). DMM requires that all electrical circuits and equipment be installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code and DMM's Safety and Health Regulations (Part XII). It is also required that all electrical work be done by, or under the supervision of, a Board of Mineral Mine Examiners certified electrical repairman or a Virginia licensed electrical contractor (4VAC25-40-2015).

The electrical violations most commonly cited by DMM inspectors include:

- Electrical work performed by individuals not properly certified/licensed or not under the proper supervision (4VAC25-40-2015.B).
- Wires or cables not adequately insulated where they pass into or out of electrical boxes (4VAC25-40-2090).
- Failure to test continuity and grounding systems immediately after installation, repair or modification and annually thereafter (4VAC25-40-2250).
- Failure to maintain equipment in a dust and water tight condition (4VAC25-40-2280).
- Defective operating handles and reset buttons not adequately protecting miners from contact with energized conductors (4VAC25-40-2370).



Hazards shown here must be corrected prior to operation

Miners assigned to operate electrically powered equipment must make a visual inspection prior to start-up each shift!