

Electrical Safety

Introduction

Electrical safety is essential for enjoying amateur radio. Many people are killed each year by coming in contact with ordinary power line conductors--the most hazardous aspect of model rocketry is people attempting to retrieve their rockets from powerlines. Hams face a similar problem--the installation of antennas can put us in harm's way--way too close to dangerous power lines. Similarly, much of our equipment is powered by electrical mains--one can't be too careful when opening up equipment for servicing.

Articles

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The ARRL Antenna Book, 18th Edition, pp. 1-8 to 1-16

Old radios with obsolete two wire plugs can be an electrical safety hazard if one side of the chassis is directly connected to the line cord. [QST December 2022 QST pages 97-97.](#)

Web Links

[Department of Energy Electrical Safety Handbook](#)

[OSHA Fact Sheet on Grounding Portable Generators](#)

OSHA's opinion on whether Field Day Generators need to be grounded.

[Monograph](#) by John "Grizzley" Grywacz explains why OSHA does not require the grounding of portable electric generators.

[Federal Standard Part 1204--Safety Standard for Omnidirectional CB Antennas.](#) It says that fifty Americans are electrocuted each year installing consumer antennas.

[Electrocution Hazards from Overhead Powerlines.](#)

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