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Talk No: 16	Title: USE OF ELECTRICITY
Introduction: Electricity is silent, invisible, and potentially fatal, so it deserves the utmost respect. Never ever take electricity for granted, and never assume a circuit is dead.	
Main points: ▪ The lowest practical voltage should be used on construction sites, which should not exceed 110v. ▪ Only suitable and authorized electrical supplies and equipment should be used, which should be installed and maintained by trained electricians. ▪ Suitable protection such as circuit breakers, fuses, and residual current devices, must always be used, along with the correct load ratings.	
Discussion points: ▪ Electrical cables should be suspended where practicable to avoid damage and damp (which also reduces a trip hazard). ▪ Carry out visual checks of plugs, sockets and cables – if any damage is identified then remove from service and report immediately. ▪ Any cable joins must utilize proper connector blocks, not just insulating tape. ▪ Never use lighting sockets to power equipment. ▪ Ensure cables are long enough for the task – they should not be pulled taut. ▪ The inner insulation of cables should never be visible – the outer insulation should extend into plugs and equipment and fully utilize cable grips. ▪ Blown fuses should be replaced immediately – never make do with a “bodge” (note: if a replaced fuse immediately blows again then it is indicative of a problem requiring the attention of an electrician). ▪ For electrical maintenance work, ensure the mains supply is disconnected. ▪ Never overload electrical sockets – one plug per socket! ▪ Where “emergency stop” switches are present ensure they are tested regularly. LIVE ELECTRICITY CAN EQUAL A DEAD PERSON – ENSURE IT ISN'T YOU OR YOUR MATES!	
Notes:	