

## Electrical Safety Glossary

**Electricity:** the energy produced and measured by the movement of electrons through systems or circuits

**Static Electricity:** a stationary electric charge, typically produced by friction which causes a spark; lightening as an example

**Direct Current:** an electric current flowing in one direction only; batteries as an example

**Alternating Current:** an electric current that reverses its direction many times a second at regular intervals; power lines as an example

**Current Electricity:** a form of electricity that flows continuously through a conductor; this is the kind of electricity used to power machines and appliances

**Generation:** measure of electricity produced over time. Power is generated at a power plant, hydro dam, wind farm, or solar farm

**Transmission:** network of lines for transmitting power over long distances

**Distribution:** the delivery of power from the transmission system to individual customers; the network of lines feeds power to most businesses and homes

**Conductor:** an object or material which allows electricity to flow through it; copper is a good conductor

**Insulator:** an object or material which does not allow electricity to easily flow through it; rubber is a good insulator

**Voltage:** the pressure being applied to the electrons

**Closed Circuit:** an unbroken path that allows an electric current to flow through it

**Switch:** a gap in an electric circuit that can be opened or closed

**HOT (on a power cord)** – the source of power

**Neutral (on a power cord)** – the return of power

**Ground (on a power cord)** – the safety connection

**Touch Potential:** the voltage between the energized object and a person touching that object

**Ground Potential:** where the highest point of electrical current enters the ground and declines with distance from the source; like a bullseye

