

To Reduce Risk & Liability



What **NOT** to do!

- Never place your head or upper spine near an electrified wire. Accidental head or neck contact can occur when pushing a voltage probe into the soil. Be careful when doing so to avoid head-to-wire contact!
- Never attempt to step over or climb through an energized fence of any kind.
- Never encourage anyone to touch an electric fence.

What **TO** do!

- Instruct all visitors and children to never touch electric fence.

Are electric fences a serious safety risk to humans?

Because touching an electric fence is painful and the voltages are high, most assume that the risks from an energized fence must also be high.

That's a myth. Consider that millions of people throughout the world are "exposed" to millions of miles of electric fences every day—**yet there is less than one death or serious injury per year worldwide—and the fence is often not the cause.**

Compare that to the number of annual injuries and deaths that occur from exposure to tractors, skid loaders, PTO shafts, balers, mowers, combines, bulls, stallions, etc.

This is not to suggest that there is no risk at all. There is, indeed, a small level of risk. And with risk, there is also liability.

To reduce the risk...

1. Be especially careful **not to touch an energized wire with the head or spine.** For reasons not fully understood, this contact point is worse than contact with hands, arms, feet or legs.
2. Never approach a fence without footwear. And **wear footwear that fully encloses the foot** (not sandals). Why? Most footwear are poor conductors. So they reduce (by absorbing it) the energy that will pass through your body if you touch a fence with your hands or head.
3. **Never energize barbed wire.** Animals and humans can become entangled and repeatedly shocked—and thus die.
4. **Hang warning signs** (see right) at critical areas where children or untrained adults encounter the fence.
5. Use smaller energizers on fences located near children and untrained adults. (Most experts agree that **smaller energizers are safer than large ones** as long as animal control isn't put at risk.)
6. **Make the fence as visible as possible to both humans and animals.** Use conductors and posts that can be seen both day and night, and against all backgrounds. That's why Premier has long advised the use of white/black conductors—to provide contrast and visibility. Fence suppliers worldwide are now following our lead.
7. **If possible, do not energize wires lower than 12".** This allows humans who might contact a wire enough space to fall away from energized wires.
8. Build fences so **all energized wires are on the inside of your boundary fence** (less likely to be touched, and anyone who touches them without your permission is trespassing). We achieve this with internal energized offset wires.
9. **Never connect 2 energizers to the same fence. (It doubles the pulse frequency).**
10. The shock from electric fences can panic animals (e.g. horses) and cause them to crash into fences (or people) resulting in injury to one or both.
To reduce this risk:
 - a. **Do not install electrified wires on feedlot fences, corral fences or around riding arenas.**
 - b. Reduce the available volts and joules on fences that enclose very small areas (e.g. night pens) to lessen the likelihood of animal stress and possible panic.

Warning: In 1991 an accidental fatality occurred when a young child's head contacted an electrified fence while the child was crawling on wet grass. The fence was correctly installed and functioning properly. The energizer was a UL approved unit. As a result, Premier strongly advises against allowing toddlers access to any electrified fences. Also, due to this incident and others, experts now suggest that human contact by an energized wire to the head and neck may be the most dangerous point of contact. We urge all to especially avoid this kind of contact.

