

In case of emergency

■ Fire

In every workplace and public building there are **fire emergency plans**: all premises must have a safety plan showing emergency exits, and every worker and visitor should know what to do in case of fire. Here are some rules:

- if you smell smoke or see a fire, keep calm;
- close the doors;
- activate the fire alarm;
- evacuate the building immediately, following the fire evacuation strategy;
- call the emergency services and ask for the **fire brigade**.

If you hear a **fire alarm**, evacuate the building immediately through the nearest fire exit. If there is smoke in that area, look for another emergency exit, keep walking while **bending low** to stay beneath the smoke and cover your mouth and nose with a piece of **cloth**.

It is important to remember that every type of fire requires a different kind of fire extinguisher. For example, an electrical fire must not be extinguished with water but with a dry-powder fire extinguisher.

■ Electric shock

In case of electric shock, do not touch the victim, especially if they are still in contact with the source of the electricity, but:

- try to separate the victim from the power source using an object made of insulating material (wood, plastic or a dry cloth);



- turn off the electricity from the main switch as soon as possible, or **unplug the faulty appliance**;
- call an ambulance, especially if the victim is unconscious or has stopped **breathing**.

In case of a **high-voltage electric shock**, do not go near the victim to avoid contact with the electrical current. Only the local power company can switch the power off, so call them immediately.

■ Amputation

In case of amputation of a **limb** or finger, it is extremely important to call the emergency services immediately. It is better not to try to push back into place any part of the body, but to apply some pressure on the bleeding part in order to reduce the victim's risk of shock.



appliance: apparecchiatura
bending low: chinato/
 piegato
blanket: coperta
breathing: respiro
cloth: tessuto
faulty: difettoso
fire brigade: pompieri
limb: arto
to unplug: disconnettere
wire: filo elettrico

1  **INVALSI** Read the text about how to act in case of an electric shock and match the correct heading (a-g) to each paragraph (1-5). There are 2 extra headings.

- Turn off the current.
- Talk to the victim.
- Look over the area of the incident carefully.
- Separate the victim from the source of electricity.
- Check if the victim shows signs of disability.
- Cover the victim with a blanket and wait.
- Call the emergency services.

- ☐ Running quickly in to save someone might be your first impulse, but, if the danger of electrical shock remains, you will only injure yourself as well. Take a moment to look for any danger.
- ☐ It is very important that you call for help as quickly as possible. Explain your situation as calmly and clearly as you can when you make the call.
- ☐ If you can do so safely, turn off the electrical current. Don't try to rescue someone near a high-voltage line. Shutting off the current at the power box, the circuit breaker or the fuse box is the preferred option.

- ☐ Don't touch the victim if the electricity hasn't been shut off. Once you're sure there is no current, use a rubber or wooden stick, or any other non-conducting tool to move the victim.
- ☐ The body temperature of the victim will fall in a very short time. You should try to cover him/her with a thermal blanket to keep their body temperature regulated. Stay with the victim while you wait for the emergency services to arrive.

Adapted from: <https://www.wikihow.com/Treat-a-Victim-of-Electrical-Shock>



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishers are classified according to the materials they use to extinguish fires caused by different sources: powder, CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and foam. Powder extinguishers are the most effective for fires caused by electrical devices. CO₂ extinguishers work best against fire produced by liquids (alcohol, solvents) or gases (methane, acetylene) and electrical equipment. Foam extinguishers are particularly suitable to extinguish fires from solid materials (wood, paper, textiles) while fire blankets are used to extinguish fires from the animal or vegetable fats and oils normally used in kitchens.