



The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

Physical Plant Department
SAFETY SHORT • January 2017

WORKSAFE

WORKING SAFELY AROUND ELECTRICITY

For the Physical Plant Department, the UVM Electricity Safety Program classifies workers (with exposure to electrical hazards) into two types of workers:

- **Qualified Person** – is defined as an employee who has demonstrated the skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of the electrical equipment and installations and has received safety training to recognize and avoid the hazards involved, **and** maintains a license to perform electrical work in the State of Vermont.

Qualified Workers are the **only** workers permitted to work on live circuits. Live work is considered live work on systems that are 50 volts or greater. Prior to live work being conducted, a “Live Work Permit” must be completed, engineering controls (including establishing boundaries) must be utilized and Personal Protective Equipment must be utilized (based on the type of work being performed).

- **Unqualified Person**– A person who is not a qualified person. However, unqualified workers have completed basic safety training to protect themselves from electrical hazards. Unqualified workers are not permitted to conduct “live work”. However, unqualified workers are eligible to perform lightbulb replacement upon reviewing the following two Standard Operating Guidelines:
 - SOC-ELC-0002, *Operations of Replacement of Lightbulbs.*
 - SOC-ELC-0001, *Operation of Switch Rated Electrical Circuit Breakers*

Remember, the only truly safe electrical work is working on systems that are **NOT** energized

**This Safety Short is to remind us all we have a role to play in
keeping UVM safe!**