Kitchen Electrical Hazards

Electric shock is a frequent cause of kitchen injuries. Electricity in combination with wet floors, wet food preparation surfaces and dishwashing equipment can pose a serious hazard.

What are the hazards that cause electric shock?

- Damaged or worn electrical cords
- Equipment and appliances with improper or faulty wiring
- Using a cloth for cleaning that is dripping wet near sources of electricity

What can you do to control them?

- Do not "flip" the circuit breaker as an On and Off switch. This can cause damage to the breaker.
- Make sure all employees know how to turn off the power in an emergency.
- Always use dry hands when handling cords or plugs.
- Pull on the plug, not the cord, to disconnect it from the outlet.
- If the cord is wet or you are standing in water, remove the cord from the water. Do not plug it in.
- Don’t run cords across walkways. This can damage the cord.
- Remind staff to report any possible problems.
- Avoid handling a cord or plug that has exposed wiring; a damaged cord should be discarded. Only handle the insulated part of a plug or cord.
- If in doubt, have a licensed Electrician evaluate the kitchen wiring, outlets, and switches to verify the system is appropriate for wet environments.
- In wet environments, use only cords with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's).