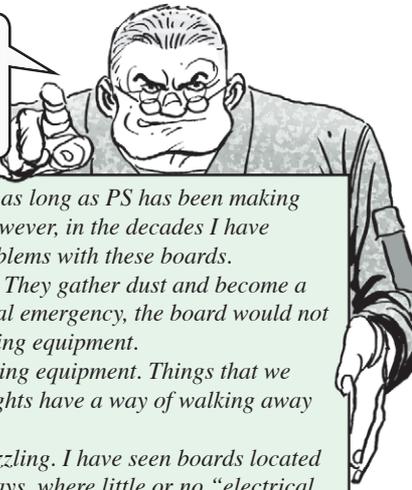


DO WE NEED A BOARD?



SO, IN SHORT, IT IS **NOT** REQUIRED TO HAVE AN ELECTRICAL SAFETY BOARD TO DISPLAY THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT...

...BUT IT **IS** REQUIRED TO HAVE THE EQUIPMENT, THAT WOULD BE ON THE BOARD, ON HAND AND READY TO USE IF YOUR FACILITY IS EXPOSING PERSONNEL TO **50 VOLTS** OR HIGHER.



PS has recommended electrical safety boards as long as PS has been making recommendations. We still recommend them. However, in the decades I have traveled from post to post, I have seen some problems with these boards.

First, they are often treated as static displays. They gather dust and become a part of the landscape. In the event of an electrical emergency, the board would not immediately come to mind as a source of lifesaving equipment.

Next, many of the boards I have seen are missing equipment. Things that we recommend for the board like gloves and flashlights have a way of walking away from the board and not walking back.

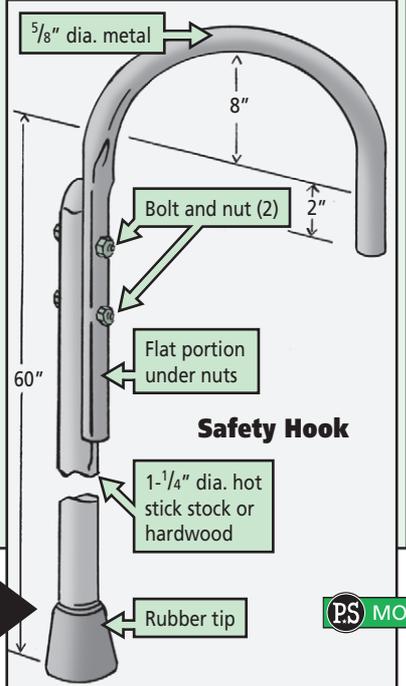
Also, the location of many of the boards is puzzling. I have seen boards located in hallways and at the far end of maintenance bays, where little or no "electrical emergency action" will happen.

So, let's go back to square one.

First, whether you use a display board or have another system to contain your electrical emergency equipment, you must have the gear and it must be easily accessible.

That means you might need more than one board or more than one electrical emergency equipment station. You, the NCO in charge, with the help of your maintenance chief and CO, need to look at your entire area of electrical safety responsibility. Assess how many boards or stations you need. Get your post safety office to help you.

At each critical location, you should have a hook to grab, pull away and save a person who is being electrocuted. Too many units have one hook on the safety board. Often, it's so far away that by the time you retrieve it, well, it's too late to use it. Lack of available hooks have led to some Soldiers risking their lives to "bulldoze" a friend being electrocuted. Too often they get a jolt, too!



Dear Half-Mast,
I arrived at my new unit last week and soon noticed we did not have an electrical safety board. My CO says it is not required. I thought it was. What do you say?

SGT W. H.

SERGEANT W. H.,
THE INFORMATION ABOUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY BOARDS IS IN PARA 3.8.9 OF TB 385-4, SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (01 JULY 08). HERE'S WHAT IT SAYS...

"Safety boards are permitted for use to store/prominently display emergency equipment. If used, safety boards should be made to be easily recognized and familiar to personnel. Safety boards that are used for storing and displaying emergency kits should be painted white with a 2-inch green border. Likewise, it is recommended that the board title contain white lettering on a green rectangular background and the positions of the items be designated in black letters on a white background."



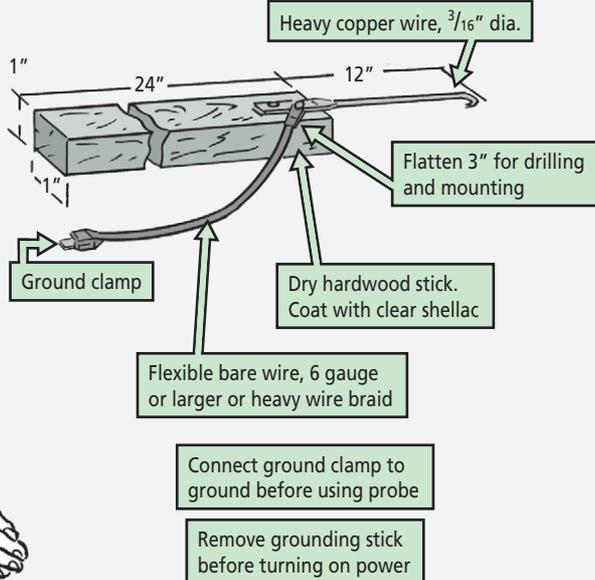
Here's how to make a lifesaving hook, shown on page 3-10 of TB 385-4:

ANOTHER ITEM YOU CAN MAKE FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS IN TM 385-4 IS A GROUNDING STICK.

HERE'S THE INFO FROM PAGE 3-9...



GROUNDING STICK



Flexible bare wire, 6 gauge or larger or heavy wire braid

Connect ground clamp to ground before using probe

Remove grounding stick before turning on power

Next, consider having a prominent electrical safety board for display and training purposes, but have satellite areas that contain the equipment to be used in an actual emergency. Use paint to highlight those areas and to draw the eye to them.

What should be on your board and at your satellite locations?

Here's what TB 385-4 **requires** you to have in addition to your grounding stick and safety hook:

- General purpose first aid kit, NSN 6545-00-922-1200, or equivalent. (Make sure this kit is regularly inventoried and that people who might be required to use it are trained in accordance with DA Pam 40-11.)

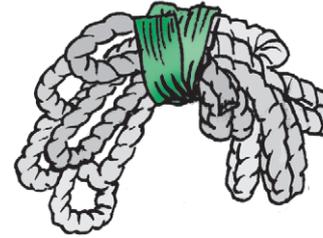


- Flashlight, NSN 6230-00-264-8261, or a suitable substitute.

- Emergency procedures and telephone numbers—ambulance, hospital, doctor, etc.

Here's what TB 385-4 **recommends** you have in addition to the above requirements:

- 3/8-in rope, 25-ft, NSN 4020-00-174-3031. (Or, we like rope, NSN 4020-00-599-7529. It's thinner, cheaper and orange.)



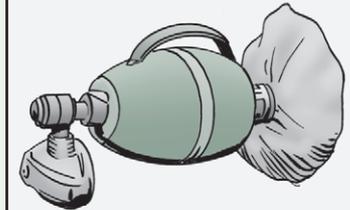
- Grounding cable from previous page



- Rubber gloves, 3000 volts, sizes 9-12, NSN 8415-01-158-9449/50/51/52



- Resuscitator



I recommend you have, in addition to the above requirements and recommendations, copies of FM 21-11, First Aid for Soldiers, and a portable defibrillator (to be used only by trained personnel).

You can add other things to your electrical safety board or electrical safety stations. Just remember that these are intended for electrical safety and not general safety. Resist the urge to clutter the board or the stations with general safety items. There is a place for these, but the place is not "in the way" when you have an electrical emergency.

Of course, all the safety equipment in the world is useless if your Soldiers are not trained on how and when to use it and how to de-energize the source of power. With the help of your local safety office, schedule onsite classes for your Soldiers that make doing the right thing and using the right equipment their first reaction to an electrical emergency.

Half-Mast

PS
END