

Cable fault testers, if used improperly, can kill you. Recently, an experienced electrician received a fatal electrical shock while demonstrating the use of a high-voltage cable testing device. In addition, several non-fatal accidents have been reported. The device, commonly referred to as a ‘thumper’, is capable of producing a high-energy pulse at voltages up to 10,000 V. During the demonstration, the victim apparently contacted an energized component of the test unit. **This device, like other thumpers, is capable of producing lethal electric shocks.** The accident may have been prevented if the victim had been wearing suitable high-voltage gloves.



Best Practices

- High-voltage testing devices should only be operated by qualified electricians who have received thorough training on the specific model of tester being used.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions explicitly and keep the owner’s manual with the device at all times.
- Always wear suitable high-voltage electrical gloves while operating such devices.
- Connect provided frame-grounding cord/connectors to a proper grounding medium before the unit is turned on.
- Ensure that all mine personnel are aware that these devices are capable of storing and delivering a lethal electrical charge.
- Store such devices in a secured location, accessible only to qualified electricians.