



Minnesota Electrical Association

Electrical Toolbox Talks

Competent Person vs. Qualified Person

- A *Competent Person* is one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.
- A *Qualified Person* is one who by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated his or her ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.
- An example of a Competent Person may be an employee who has been selected by the employer based on the employee's knowledge. This is evident in scaffolding, excavation and fall protection. The competent person oversees that the procedures and equipment are utilized correctly. If not, the process is immediately stopped until changes are made to correct any problems.
- An example of a Qualified Person is someone that has attended specific training and acquired further knowledge in selected areas. Again, this could be in scaffolding, excavation or fall protection. The qualified person will design the system, and the competent person will ensure it is applied correctly.

