

Register for our next webinar, 4/26 at 12pm ET, on *Using mental modeling in occupational health and safety: A study of electricians' safe work decisions*.

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Using mental modeling in occupational health and safety: A study of electricians' safe work decisions

Electricians' fatal or serious injuries often occur when they work on energized systems, even though safety standards advise that they work on de-energized. We used a mental models research method to gather insights into the decisions and contexts that lead electricians to work on energized systems. This included developing an 'expert model' that illustrates diverse expert understanding of influences on electricians' safety decisions and behaviors.

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In-depth interviews with 60 electricians elicited their 'mental models' of the same topics. Analysis of the interviews was guided by concepts found in the expert model. Results are informing behavior-focused risk management and risk communication interventions in OH&S regulatory oversight in Ontario.



Laurel Austin is an Adjunct



Joel Moody, MD, PhD, is the



Sarah Thorne is President of

Research Professor at the Ivey Business School in Ontario Canada and a Senior Research Scientist at Decision Partners. Her research focuses on the study of risk perceptions, decision making processes, and behavioral risk mitigation in situations that involve risk and uncertainty.

Director of Safety, Risk and Policy Innovation at the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) in Ontario Canada. ESA is an administrative authority that acts on behalf of the Ontario Provincial Government to monitor electrical injury and improve occupational and residential electrical safety.

Decision • Partners Inc. and Decision • Partners Canada Inc. as well as Co-Founder of Decision Partners, LLC. Decision Partners understands influences on people's judgment, decision making and behavior and uses that insight to develop strategies and communications that have measurable behavioral results.



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