

AUG. 7, 1890: THE FIRST EXECUTION BY ELECTRIC CHAIR

The electricity was turned on for 17 seconds, but it was not enough to kill the condemned man. Another shock lasting considerably longer was administered until witnesses could smell the body burning and there was no doubt the man was dead.

Many condemned this form of execution after witnessing it.



An undated photo of the electric chair at the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville. First used by New York State in 1890, it was used throughout the 20th century to execute hundreds. Since 1976, 158 inmates have been executed by electrocution. It was considered humane on its introduction but resulted in many horrific executions over the years. The execution method is still an option in eight states.