TOOLBOX TOPICS

ELECTRIC SHOCK ACCIDENT

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:

On the construction site, an electric shock can and has come from the operation of small hand tools such as electric saws, drills, concrete breakers, electric hammers, etc. If these electric tools and their connection cords are not checked and properly maintained, users may be subjected to electrical shock which could result in burns and even death. OSHA requires these extension cords to be connected to a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) which disconnects the power at the slightest hint of an electrical problem.

A worker got a strong jolt of between 15 to 20 amps when he touched the door of a metal cabinet he was drilling holes in. The electrical cord that he was using had a bare wire exposure and had made contact with the metal as the cord was lying inside the metal cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Since no GFCI was being used, the worker was shocked electrically. Even though the worker was not seriously hurt, these types of incidence should be red flags telling us that something is wrong and needs to be corrected immediately.

1. Check your electrical cords and end caps frequently for broken or bare wires.

2. Always use GFCI protection which prevents accidents like this one.