

## Safety Flash

### Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 3/28/2022

#### The Incident

An associate was setting up a wire welder for use when he noticed that the wire was on a constant feed setting exposing 1½" - 2" of wire from the nozzle. The associate accidentally touched the exposed wire metal which produced a "flash." Since the associate was not actively welding, he did not have his welding shield in place at the time. The associate did not immediately notice anything wrong and went about his daily tasks. The associate started noticing eye irritation on his drive home and reported it the next day. The associate went to a physician and the associate was given medical treatment beyond first aid resulting in a recordable incident.

#### The Causes

- Unfamiliar with that particular style of welder and its settings.
- Original task had changed from the morning brief due to part of the job not being ready for them to begin.
- Protective shaded lens not in place at the time of the flash.

#### Prevent It

- Keep shaded lens on place while setting the welder up, to protect eyes in case of accidental flash.
- Utilize weld screens to help protect everyone in the area of welding.
- Wear additional level of eye protection when possible.
- In the future, if exposed to an arc flash, report it as soon as practical so preventive treatment can begin and work can be assigned appropriately to keep exposed associate away from work that may aggravate their eyes.

#### Action Plan

- Safety Flash to be made up and posted on intranet.
- Findings from incident review to be shared with all crews on site.

#### Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.