

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 4/1/2024

The Incident

An associate was attempting to remove a piece of material from a hole saw with the pilot bit of the hole saw. The associate's grip on the drill slipped and engaging the trigger of the drill motor causing the bit to puncture their hand.

The Causes

- The drill motor battery was not removed while trying to remove the material.
- The associate was holding the hole-saw instead of using a vise or other tool, which put their hand in the line of fire.
- The associate was not wearing gloves due to the rotating nature of the drill.
- The pilot bit was not removed from the drill motor.

Prevent It

- If the battery would have been removed, there would not have been any rotating parts to worry about and gloves could have been worn while doing this.
- Remove the battery from the tool before doing any type of removal.
- Use a better suited tool to perform this function.
- Take line of fire for puncture possibility out of the equation by using a vise, or other suitable tool to hold the hole-saw.

Action Plan

- Share the findings from this incident with the customer safety professional to be discussed in the weekly safety meeting.
- Hold a Toolbox Talk in the morning with all RLG crews and their subs to discuss this incident and the findings from the incident review.
- Investigate alternative style hole-saws that may be a better choice for this application.

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.