

Safety Flash

Lesson Learned

Date of Incident: 6/5/2019

The Incident

During a light fixture retrofit, GEM associates discovered pre-existing broken glass within an existing fixture housing. They worked diligently to prevent broken glass from falling to the pool deck and pool below the work area. When the task was completed and the aerial lift was removed from the area, some 1/4-inch (approximately) sized pieces of glass were discovered on the pool deck.

The GEM associates used a shop vac and mop to clean the area and inspected the area for glass, at which point no more glass was identified and no known safety hazard existed. However, this may not have been adequate due to a member and an employee of the customer's facility being exposed to broken glass within the next 12 hours; the extent of their injuries, if any, are unknown at this time.

The Causes

- Pre-existing broken glass in light fixture.
- The crew may not have cleaned up all the glass that had fallen to the deck below.

Prevent It

- Next time a similar situation is encountered, employees will "Take 2" and discuss an action plan.
- If broken glass or other sharp objects are encountered, visqueen will be used as a catch for any rogue objects that may fall to the ground below the work area.
- Thorough visual inspection and cleaning will be performed after visqueen is removed from the area.

Action Plan

- An incident review was held and the incident was discussed.
- Findings from the review will be shared with the customer and put on GEM's Intranet page, so others may learn from this incident.

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.