

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 12/16/2024

The Incident

An associate was using a battery-powered drill motor to drill an opening into drywall with a 12" extension and 5-1/2" hole saw. As the teeth of the hole saw began to bite into the drywall, the drill motor spun out of the associates hands and the battery struck the top of the associate's hand fracturing it.

The Causes

- The pre-task plan did not include this activity on it.
- The drill motor with the 12" extension and 5-1/2" hole saw was probably not the best tool for performing the task.
- A structural beam was close-by and made using the handle with the drill not possible.
- A "Take 2" was not performed once it was found out that the handle couldn't be used.
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Prevent It

- Create a task plan for this task, and future wall penetrations.
- Research for a different tool to perform this type of work.
- Review the importance of keeping all of the safety equipment that comes with the tool, on the tool at all times, and create a Tool Box Talk on this subject as well.

Action Plan

- Stand Down with on site crews to review lessons learned from this incident.
- Safety Flash to be posted to company intranet page.

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.