

Asset Management Safety Bulletin: Safety Alert!



Perform Last Minute Risk Assessment (LMRA) Before Performing Tasks

Recordable Injury *ProAct # 255549*



Injury from drill “Kick-Out”

An Electrical Contractor was drilling a hole in the ceiling of a Walk-In Cooler using a cordless drill and a 3/4” hole-saw bit.

The bit grabbed (became stuck). The torque caused the drill to “kick-out” in the opposite direction of the bit, forcing the worker’s hand against the adjacent cooler wall, fracturing a bone in the worker’s hand.

What can we learn from this event?

Perform LMRA and take steps to mitigate the risks

- What may seem like a “routine task” can still carry significant risk. Perform a Last Minute Risk Assessment before performing any task and take steps to reduce the risks and mitigate potential negative outcomes.
- In this case, the drill could have been angled so that the battery pack was closer to the wall to reduce the amount of kick; the drill could have been set to a lower speed to reduce the velocity of the kick; body position could have been improved - less arm extension/more bend in the elbow to provide more control over the tool.
- Had the hole been further from the wall, this type of incident still could have resulted in an injury to the wrist/arm. Drill kick-out has also contributed to abrasions in the past.

All injuries are preventable!