



Safety Flash

Incident with Property Damage

Incident: A subcontractor employee was directed by his foreman to demolish an interior wall. Power to a receptacle on the wall had been locked out and air-gapped.

The electrical contractor, the RLI superintendent and the demo foreman discussed the fact that the wall contained other conduits whose locations were unknown. They developed a plan to carefully remove only the drywall on one side so those conduits could be located, traced and gapped before completing the demolition.

The worker performing the demolition had not been told about the plan, and when he began cutting into the wall, he struck a live conduit.

Contributing factors:

- The subcontractor foreman did not tell his employee about the plan to carefully remove one side of the wall because of the presence of conduits and their unknown locations.
- The worker assumed there was no risk in removing the wall.

Primary contributing factor:

- The subcontractor foreman did not tell his employee about the plan to carefully remove one side of the wall because of the presence of conduits and their unknown locations.

Solutions:

- Hold meetings with all subcontractors to review pre-task plans and discuss how tasks and potential hazards can affect others.
- Reinforce the importance of going above and beyond our standard demolition hazard procedures when a situation is unique.

Action plan:

- The superintendent hosted daily safety meetings with all personnel, including pre-task discussions with each crew and each subcontractor to reinforce the importance of communicating about potential hazards.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Chad Metzger, Lima, 419/279-5348 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.