CAMSAFETY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

SAFETY ALERT #41

October 4, 2010

In the interest of keeping everyone safe **CAM***SAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.*

WATER & ELECTRICITY = FIRE BUT NO INJURIES (this time!)

What Happened

On April 21, 2010 two core drilling employees were drilling above a light switch when water permeated the 277-volt electrical device box causing the switch to trip creating a small electrical fire. Visqueen was used to protect the switch from water and slurry, but this method was ineffective.

Potential Causes:

- THA not reviewed for the area of work. Electricity was not isolated and locked-out at the source.
- Duct putty & duct seal not used in conjunction with visqueen to protect the device box.
- Work was not coordinated with the general contractor, or electrical contractor.

Prevention:

- Prior to performing work, core drillers are to coordinate scope with general or prime contractor.
- The core driller will complete a Task Hazard Analysis for each specific area work is to be performed.
- If working around electricity, work is to be coordinated with the electrical contractor. Electrical switches and boxes are to be locked & tagged-out at the breaker.
- Electrical contractor is to provide recommendations to the core drillers on how they would like the electrical devices protected.
- After core drilling is complete and electricity is still isolated, an electrician is to inspect the electrical device before reenergizing.

MIOSHA Reference

Part 17 – Electrical Installations

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