



SAFETY TRAINING TALK

Date

TOPIC: Kill the Power !

"What kinda title is that?" you might ask.

Well, this week's training talk focuses on something that all of us, at one time or another, are guilty of doing. And that is, working on something or walking away from something - a vehicle, a tool, or a piece of equipment - without first killing the source of power to it.

It may be as simple as changing a bit in a drill without unplugging it first; or fueling a vehicle without turning off the engine; or even hopping off a forklift and doing something with the load, while the engine is still running.

The fact is, in each of these instances something, anything, unexpected could happen and the end result could be serious injury to you or a coworker, or damage to the equipment itself.

We're not talking about the times when you, or someone else, are actually performing maintenance on the object. That's when you should follow the "Lock-Out / Tag Out" procedures.

But rather, we're talking about those instances when you are only going to make a 'minor' adjustment and are more likely to try to do it without killing the power to the object.

If you'll think about it for the next week or so, its very likely you'll catch yourself, or someone else making this mistake. So be on the lookout and see how often it happens. And when it does, think about what could go wrong.

Chances are, you'll realize that we all do it more often then we think, and the consequences can be pretty serious.

Here's a couple more examples, some from work and some from home:

- walking away from a running lawn mower
- crimping a water hose while you try to do something else
- leaving a vehicle running while its unattended

It only takes a few seconds to restart, plug-in, or turn on whatever it is that you have left under power. So what have you really saved - and what have you really risked?

When it comes to doing things THE SAFE WAY, the focus should be on saving lives not time.

.....

As always, end the meeting by covering any other issues of concern and then have everyone sign the back of this sheet.