



January 2 — Open Rod Cans/Sharp Edge Hazard

<p>Open rod cans with rods in them, sharp edges</p>	<p>Talked with pipe crew and had them put the rod in the rod oven.</p>
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Open rod cans don't look dangerous once they've been around awhile. They become part of the background. The problem is the lid edge is thin, rigid, and sharp, and it sits right where hands naturally reach when grabbing rods. Contact usually isn't planned it happens during a reach, a turn, or while focused on something else. That's when a minor distraction turns into a forearm or hand laceration.

**A rod can open, sharp and bare,
Waits for an arm that wanders there.
Pull the rods, the oven's the plan,
No rods should live in an open can.**

This isn't about force or speed. It's about sharp edges waiting in familiar places.

Hazards

- Lacerations to hands, wrists, and forearms
- Deep cuts from thin metal edges
- Blood exposure and contamination of work area
- Distraction-related secondary injuries
- Increased risk when wearing short sleeves or no sleeves

Stats

- **Sharp-edge contact is a leading cause of minor-to-moderate lacerations** in industrial settings
- Hand and forearm cuts frequently occur during **material handling**, not active work
- Lacerations often happen during **routine or repetitive tasks** when attention is divided
- Poor housekeeping and exposed edges are common contributors to recordable injuries

Words of Wisdom

- Sharp edges don't need speed to cut you.
- If it can slice a glove, it can slice skin.

Pause and Think

Familiarity is what makes this hazard easy to miss. Open cans get left out because they've "always been there" and haven't caused a problem yet. Over time, the brain filters them out. The injury usually happens when attention is on the task, not the container — a quick grab, a step back, or a reach without looking. Covering sharp edges or closing containers removes a hazard you don't get a second warning from.

- What sharp edges have blended into the background?
- Where do your hands go without you thinking about it?
- What containers or materials should be closed or covered by default?