



June 17 — It's Fine Until It Isn't

**They were using the core drill to drill holes. The power cord was laying in water**

**I unplugged the cord and set it on a bucket to loop it out of the water.**

Most electrical hazards don't announce themselves. The cord doesn't spark. The tool doesn't stop working. Everything appears normal—until something changes.

During a drilling operation, employees were using a core drill to make holes when an employee noticed the power cord was laying in water. Recognizing the hazard, he immediately unplugged the cord and placed it on a bucket to keep it elevated and out of the water.

The situation was corrected before anyone was injured, but it serves as a reminder of how quickly conditions can change during a job.

Electrical equipment and water are a dangerous combination. Even when tools are operating normally, damaged insulation, worn cords, faulty connections, or unexpected contact with water can create the potential for electric shock, equipment damage, or serious injury.

What makes hazards like this challenging is that they often develop gradually. The drill may have been set up correctly. The cord may have been dry when work started. As the job progressed, water accumulated and the conditions changed. When employees become focused on the task itself, it's easy to overlook changes happening around them.

That's why hazard recognition isn't a one-time event. Safe work requires continuously evaluating the work area and adjusting when conditions change.

In this case, an employee noticed something that didn't look right and took immediate action before it became an incident.

## Hazards

- Electrical shock
- Electrocutation
- Damaged electrical equipment
- Slip hazards from standing water
- Unexpected equipment failure
- Changing work conditions

## Words of Wisdom

The safest employees don't just inspect their tools before work begins. They continue evaluating the work area throughout the entire task.

## Pause and Think

- How can work conditions change after a job has already started?
- What electrical hazards should employees look for during routine work?
- Have you ever noticed a hazard develop after a task was already underway?
- Why is it important to periodically reassess the work area?
- What could have happened if the cord had remained in the water?

## Closing Thought

A safe setup at the start of the job doesn't guarantee a safe job. Conditions change—make sure your awareness changes with them.