



September 23 — Protect Others from Flying Debris

2 people used the polisher with a wire disc to clean metal. When I saw them, I realized that they did not put a red plastic that is in the workshop. Which serves to protect people passing by from the residue of wire that it drops. I told him to stop working and to put the plastic on.

They told me they wouldn't put that red plastic. They ignored it and continued to work.

Your Work Area Doesn't End Where Your Feet Stop

Two employees were using a polisher with a wire disc to clean metal. The red plastic barrier used in the workshop to protect people passing by from wire residue was not in place.

The employees were instructed to stop working and put up the barrier, but they refused and continued working without it.

The barrier was not simply a convenience—it was a control designed to protect people outside the immediate work area. The employees were instructed to stop and install the barrier, but they chose to continue working without it. This is an important reminder that when a required safety control is missing, the correct response is to stop the work and correct the condition. A routine task does not become acceptable simply because someone is willing to continue without the required protection.

The purpose of the barrier is to protect people who may be passing through the area from the residue produced by the wire disc. Even when the person operating the tool is wearing the proper PPE, people outside the immediate work area can still be exposed to flying debris.

Hazards

- Flying wire and metal debris
- Eye injuries to nearby employees
- Debris reaching people outside the immediate work area
- Inadequate work area protection
- Employees being exposed without warning

Words of Wisdom

Your PPE protects you, but it doesn't protect the person walking past your work area. Control the hazard at its source and protect everyone who could be exposed.

Pause and Think

- Could debris from your work reach someone outside your immediate work area?
- Is the required barrier or protection in place before you begin?
- Who could be exposed to your work?
- Does your PPE protect the people walking past your work area?
- What should you do if the required safety control isn't being used?

Closing Thought

Your responsibility doesn't stop with protecting yourself. Look beyond your work area and make sure the people around you are protected too.