



January 22 — Extension Cord Disconnect Hazard

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Employee drove off in forklift and didn't unplug the extension cord that was being use to plug forklift in for cold weather not paying attention could result in injury or property damages</p> | <p>Stopped employee and talked with him about doing a better job on equipment inspections before operating</p> |
|---|---|

Cold weather adds extra steps to routine tasks, and temporary setups like extension cords can easily get overlooked. When transitioning from warming or charging equipment to operating it, attention often jumps ahead to the next task. In that moment, the disconnect step can be missed. Driving off with a cord still attached places sudden tension on the cord, plug, and equipment, turning a normal startup into an uncontrolled hazard.

**A cord still tight, the lift rolls free,
That's trouble waiting patiently.
Unplug it first, then roll away,
So cords and lifts both end the day.**

This wasn't about speed it was about attention shifting before the setup was fully cleared.

Hazards

- Struck-by hazard from a snapping or whipping cord
- Damage to forklift, plug, or electrical source
- Trip hazards from pulled or damaged cords
- Electrical shock from compromised connections
- Property damage and equipment downtime

Stats

- Equipment movement during setup or disconnect is a common source of near misses
- Temporary electrical setups increase the likelihood of attention errors
- Damaged extension cords are a frequent contributor to electrical shock incidents
- Cold weather conditions are linked to increased distraction and task-switching errors

Words of Wisdom

- If it's still plugged in, you're not ready to move.
- Finish the setup before starting the job.

Pause and Think

Task switching is where small but critical steps disappear. Once the operator's mindset shifts from "setup" to "operation," the body follows — even if the equipment isn't ready. Cold temperatures, gloves, and the urge to get moving all work against attention. Building a short pause before moving equipment helps catch what the brain has already moved past.

- What steps are easiest to miss during cold starts?
- Where do temporary setups create blind spots?
- What personal check tells you the equipment is truly ready to move?