



SHARP START



July 9 — The Hazard Can Change While You're Working

Was working on limestone feeder, grinding and welding when I noticed coal dust falling down

Went a floor up and told coworker to come back later when we're done

Just because the job started safely...

...doesn't mean it stayed that way.

While performing grinding and welding on a limestone feeder, an employee noticed coal dust beginning to fall into the work area. What had started as a routine hot work task quickly became a much different situation.

Instead of continuing and hoping nothing would happen, the employee recognized that the work environment had changed and stopped the job. The area was evaluated, the source of the coal dust was addressed, and work only resumed after it was safe to do so.

One of the biggest challenges during any job is staying aware of changing conditions. It's easy to become focused on the task at hand and overlook new hazards that develop around you. Safe work isn't just about checking conditions before you begin—it's about continually asking, **"Has anything changed?"**

Recognizing those changes before an incident occurs is what prevents injuries and serious events.

Hazards

- Fire and explosion hazards
- Combustible dust
- Hot work ignition sources
- Changing work conditions
- Reduced situational awareness

Words of Wisdom

A Job Hazard Analysis isn't a one-time event. Conditions can change throughout the day, and when they do, it's your responsibility to stop, reassess, and adjust the plan before continuing.

Pause and Think

- What changed during this job that increased the risk?
- Have you ever stopped work because conditions changed after the job had already started?
- How can focusing too much on the task cause us to miss new hazards around us?
- What should you do anytime conditions change during a job?
- How can crews help each other recognize changing hazards before someone gets hurt?

Closing Thought

The safest employees don't just watch the job—they watch the environment around the job. When conditions change, the plan should change too.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something