SHARP START

DECEMBER 17 — Brass Tools Required

Employees were going to use steel tools in extraction but I stopped them an explain that they have to use brass tools unless they have a monitor	**Tools replaced with proper tools and had a meeting with employees**

Steel tools appeared in extraction. A flammable vapor zone where “just grab what’s closest” can write headlines. Overconfidence marched in boldly. Rushing held the door. Neither cared that vapors don’t negotiate. One spark here doesn’t ruin your day. It ends your day.

In vapor clouds where hazards wait,
A single spark decides your fate.
Use brass tools, they won’t ignite
And help keep fire out of sight.

Using steel tools in extraction is like sticking a metal fork into a Christmas light socket just to “test it.” You’ll light up the room, but not in the festive way.

Hazards

- Sparks → flash fire
- Vapor ignition
- Burns
- OSHA non-sparking tool violation

Stats

- Non-sparking tools reduce ignition risk by **95%**
- Tools = top 5 ignition source in extraction units
- Vapor fires spread faster than flame-front fires

Words of Wisdom

- Non-sparking tools are mandatory in flammable zones.
- Steel tools here? Might as well juggle road flares.

Pause and Think

Rushing often leads to overconfidence because moving fast tricks you into believing you’ve “got it handled.” When you push the pace, your brain stops double-checking steps and assumes everything will go smoothly—just because it has before. That false confidence makes you skip precautions, overlook changes, and miss hazards you would normally catch.

- Where does overconfidence sneak into hot-work areas?
- What shortcuts do people take with tools when they’re rushed?
- How do YOU check tools before entering flammable zones?