SHARP START

January 27 — Power Tool in Rain Without GFCI

Employee had the task of removing some 4" SS pipe that was outside in a pipe rack and was using a corded power tool in the rain and didn't have a GFCI on cord.	**I stopped and said something to the employee about the hazard of electrical shock, they then went and got a GFCI to help reduce the risk of getting shocked.**

Water and electricity don't slowly become dangerous they're dangerous immediately. Rain turns every wet surface into a potential conductor, including tools, hands, gloves, and the pipe itself. Without a GFCI, the only thing stopping current from flowing through a person is luck.

A cord in the rain is not your friend,
That's how shocks and troubles begin.
Plug GFCI before you play,
So everyone goes home okay.

This is a case where the environment changes the hazard level instantly.

Hazards

- Electrical shock or electrocution
- Increased current path through wet gloves, clothing, or metal
- Loss of muscle control leading to secondary injuries
- Damage to tools and power supply
- Fire or arc potential from wet electrical connections

Stats

- GFCIs are designed to trip within milliseconds of detecting a ground fault
- Wet conditions significantly increase the severity of electrical exposure
- Many electrical fatalities occur in environments where water is present
- GFCIs reduce fatal shock risk by over 80% when used properly

Words of Wisdom

- Rain turns normal tools into live hazards.
- If it's wet, you need a GFCI no exceptions.

Pause and Think

Rain changes everything about electrical work. The resistance that normally protects us drops, and the path through the body becomes easier for current to follow. The task may feel routine, but the environment isn't. Stopping to reassess when conditions change is what prevents a normal job from becoming a medical emergency.

- What environmental changes increase electrical risk?
- How do we adapt controls when conditions shift?
- What tells you it's time to stop and rethink a setup?