



May 20 — Bare Hands, Sharp Edges

Road Electricians didn't have thinner knit gloves and were using bare hands to strip wire.

Went down and got them the appropriate gloves for their task.

The task wasn't complicated. Strip the wire. Move on. It's something that gets done all the time.

Quick. Routine. Familiar. And that's where the risk gets overlooked. Bare hands feel easier. Better control. More precision.

But wire doesn't stay smooth once it's cut. It frays. It splinters. It leaves sharp edges that don't give warning.

And once your hand slips, or pressure changes, or the material shifts. You find it fast. Cuts. Punctures. Snags that turn into something worse. Nothing happened here.

But the setup made it possible before the work even started. The correction was simple.

Use the right gloves. Protect your hands before the task begins.

Because when your hands are the closest thing to the work, they're also the first thing exposed.

## Hazards

- Cuts and lacerations from sharp wire
- Puncture injuries
- Hand and finger injuries
- Loss of grip or control
- Line of fire exposure to sharp materials

## Stats

- Hand injuries are among the most common workplace injuries
- Many occur during routine tasks involving sharp materials
- Lack of proper gloves increases severity of injury
- Task-specific PPE significantly reduces risk

## Words of Wisdom

- If it's sharp, your hands are at risk
- Bare hands aren't better control
- Protect them before you need them

## Pause and Think

It's easy to take gloves off for tasks that require precision.

You feel like you have better control.

Better grip.

Better accuracy.

But that control doesn't matter when something slips.

Because your hands are the first thing to take the hit.

And once it happens, there's no going back and putting protection on.

- Am I choosing comfort over protection?
- Do I remove PPE to make the task easier?
- Am I using the right gloves for the job?
- Would I correct this before the work starts?