



SHARP START



October 2 – Leave It Safe for the Next Person

Someone had left a test prong in the HOT side of a 120v 15amp. receptacle. this created a potential to get shock from some one trying to plug in to the receptacle.

I showed our electrical crew's Supervisor and he safely removed the test prong.

The Job Isn't Safe Just Because You're Finished

A test prong was left in the HOT side of a 120V, 15-amp receptacle. The person who left it may have been finished with whatever testing they were doing, but the hazard didn't leave with them. The exposed prong remained in the receptacle for the next person who might come along and try to use it.

The condition was identified and brought to the electrical crew's supervisor, who safely removed the test prong.

This is a good reminder that we have to think about what we leave behind. Finishing our part of a job doesn't necessarily mean the area is safe for the next person. A tool, test lead, piece of material, or temporary condition can become a hazard when someone else doesn't know it is there.

Electrical hazards can be especially difficult because they aren't always visible. Someone approaching a receptacle may have no reason to expect that a test prong has been left in it. That's why good housekeeping and a final check of our work area matter.

Before walking away from a task, take a moment to look at the equipment and area from the perspective of the next person who will use it. Remove temporary items, return equipment to a safe condition, and make sure we aren't leaving behind a hazard that someone else has to discover.

Hazards

- Electrical shock
- Contact with an energized component
- Unexpected exposure to an electrical hazard
- Leaving tools or test equipment in a hazardous position
- Another employee unknowingly using the receptacle
- Failure to leave the work area in a safe condition

Words of Wisdom

Finishing your task is only part of the job. Before you walk away, look at what you are leaving behind. The next person may not know what you know and they shouldn't have to discover a hazard the hard way.

Pause and Think

- What could someone encounter after you leave your work area?
- Have you removed temporary tools, test equipment, or other items before walking away?
- Could the next person recognize the hazard without you being there to explain it?
- When you finish a task, do you take a final look at the equipment and surrounding area?
- Are you leaving the area ready for the next person to safely use?

Closing Thought

We don't just work safely for ourselves. We work safely for the person who comes after us. Before you leave the job, make sure you haven't left a hazard behind.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something