



April 10 — Exposed

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| <b>Extension cord was damaged/exposed wiring. Stop employee from using it and tagged it out of service</b> | <b>Tagged cord out of service</b> |
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An extension cord was found with visible damage and exposed wiring.

It still had power. It was still being used. But the protection was gone.

The insulation around a cord isn't just there to hold it together it's what keeps the electricity contained. Once that barrier is broken, the risk changes immediately.

Contact becomes possible. Shorting becomes possible. Fire becomes possible.

Nothing had happened yet. But electrical hazards don't wait for a warning.

When the wiring is exposed, the danger is already there whether it's noticed or not.

The cord was taken out of service before it could become something more serious.

This wasn't about the tool failing. It was about recognizing that it already had.

## Hazards

- Electrical shock
- Contact with exposed conductors
- Short circuit or arc
- Burns from energized contact
- Fire hazard
- Line of fire exposure to electrical energy

## Stats

- Electrical incidents cause hundreds of workplace fatalities each year
- Damaged cords are a common source of shock and fire hazards
- Many electrical injuries occur during routine use of equipment
- Exposed conductors significantly increase the risk of serious injury

## Words of Wisdom

- If the insulation is gone, so is the protection
- Don't use what's already failed
- Remove it before it hurts someone

## Pause and Think

When something still works, it's easy to overlook what's wrong with it. Power is flowing, the tool runs, and it feels usable.

But damage changes everything. Once wiring is exposed, the risk is no longer potential it's immediate.

And electrical hazards don't give time to react. They don't warn. They don't wait.

They just make contact.

- Do I inspect cords and tools before using them?
- Would I stop using equipment that is visibly damaged?
- Am I relying on function instead of condition?
- Do I remove hazards from service, or work around them?