



## January 26 — Missing Cover Plate / Electrical Exposure Hazard

<p><b>Possible shock hazard cover plate missing stopped what we were doing went and got a cover plate and put on in process of adding cover notice receptacle is broken danger tape and placard need work order to replace.</b></p>	<p><b>Placards and danger taped</b></p>
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The missing cover plate was the first visible issue, but once attention was focused on it, a deeper problem showed up. Without the plate, energized components were exposed to hands, tools, and conductive materials. When the cover was installed, damage to the receptacle became obvious, confirming the hazard went beyond appearance. Stopping work, installing a temporary control, and escalating the repair prevented a simple exposure from turning into an electrical injury.

**A plate was gone, wires in sight,  
Looked like a fix would make it right.  
Dig one layer, what do you see?  
More work needed that's safety.**

Electrical hazards often reveal themselves in layers. Fixing the first problem is what allows the next one to be found.

### Hazards

- Shock or electrocution from exposed energized parts
- Arc or short caused by damaged receptacle components
- Contact with conductive tools or materials
- False sense of safety once the visible issue is addressed
- Secondary injuries from startle response or involuntary movement

### Stats

- Electrical contact remains one of OSHA's Focus Four hazards
- Missing covers are a frequent contributor to electrical exposure incidents
- Damaged receptacles significantly increase shock and arc risk
- Many electrical injuries occur during routine interaction, not energized work

### Words of Wisdom

- If you can see it, you can touch it.
- Fixing the obvious often exposes the real problem.

### Pause and Think

Electrical hazards don't always announce themselves all at once. The missing cover plate was the first warning sign, but the broken receptacle was the true hazard underneath. It's easy to fix what's visible and move on, especially when the job feels complete. Taking the extra moment to look deeper and stopping when something doesn't look right — is what turns a quick fix into a real safety save.

- What hazards might be hidden behind "simple" fixes?
- When should a temporary control become a stop-and-escalate decision?
- How often do we slow down after correcting the first issue?