



March 24 — Still Energized

Heat trace removed from pipe since the pipe was removed and the heat trace is hanging and still hooked up. This could result in a shock if someone tries to move it and it is damaged.

Need to verify the circuit is off and then remove the heat trace if the pipe is not going to be reinstalled

The pipe was gone. The heat trace was not.

After pipe removal, the heat trace remained hanging and still connected to power. It looked inactive. It looked harmless. But it was still energized.

Remove the energy, not just the equipment. If it's still connected, it's still a hazard. Finish the task completely including isolation.

Heat trace systems are designed to provide continuous electrical heating. When they are left exposed, unsecured, and still connected, they become an energized conductor in the open. If insulation is damaged or if someone attempts to move it out of the way electrical shock becomes possible.

The danger here wasn't visible. No sparks. No warning signs. Just a hanging line that appeared out of service.

This wasn't a failure to understand electricity. It was a breakdown in task completion. The pipe was removed but the energy source was not addressed.

And unfinished electrical work leaves live hazards behind.

Hazards

- Electrical shock
- Short circuit
- Arc flash potential if insulation is compromised
- Fire hazard
- Secondary fall from shock reaction
- Equipment damage

Stats

- Electrical hazards remain a leading cause of serious injury in industrial work.
- Many electrical incidents occur during maintenance or modification activities.
- Exposed or damaged energized conductors significantly increase shock risk.
- Electrical energy often causes injury without visible warning signs.

Humans at Work

When work is moving fast, finishing details start to feel secondary. The main task gets done and everyone shifts to the next priority. That's time pressure. At the same time, when multiple crews are involved, it becomes easy to assume someone else will handle the remaining piece. That's the responsibility gap.

Put those two together and hazards get left behind. Not because someone ignored safety.

Because everyone believed it was covered. The problem is, energy does not recognize scope lines or schedule pressure. If it is still connected, it is still live. Finishing the task means finishing the energy and the risk. Not just the equipment.

Pause and Think •

- Has every energy source been addressed?
- Are you assuming someone else handled it?
- If someone touched it right now, would it be safe?