

TOOLBOX SAFETY TRAINING

Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 16 - No 46 FIRE DAMPER EYE INJURY

Without the proper PPE, even the simplest tasks can create an injury. Something you've done dozens of times can suddenly become hazardous. An HVAC worker was getting ready to install a fire damper into a previously installed duct. He had done this many times and saw no need for eye protection when doing such an easy task. The worker measured and cut pieces on the duct where the fire damper was to be installed. At that time, there was no air flow in the duct system. As he reached up from his scissor lift to install the damper, the air system turned on. When the air flowed some insulation particles that were in the duct blew into the employee's eyes. He was taken to a clinic to have the foreign objects removed.

The lack of proper eye protection caused this injury. However the worker should have known that lockout / tagout needed to be in place also. Lockout / tagout procedures are not only for electrical work. Remember that there are several sources of energy such as: electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical thermal and even gravity. Locking out the system would have prevented it from turning on and the dust would not have blown into the workers eyes. Although OSHA outlines its lockout / tagout standard for electrical, servicing and maintenance activities, this goes to show that similar situations can occur during installation of HVAC equipment



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