

Walking Through Life Series...

'Sharks' are unpredictable hazards that may wait, lurk and strike in any situation, even when someone is least expecting it.

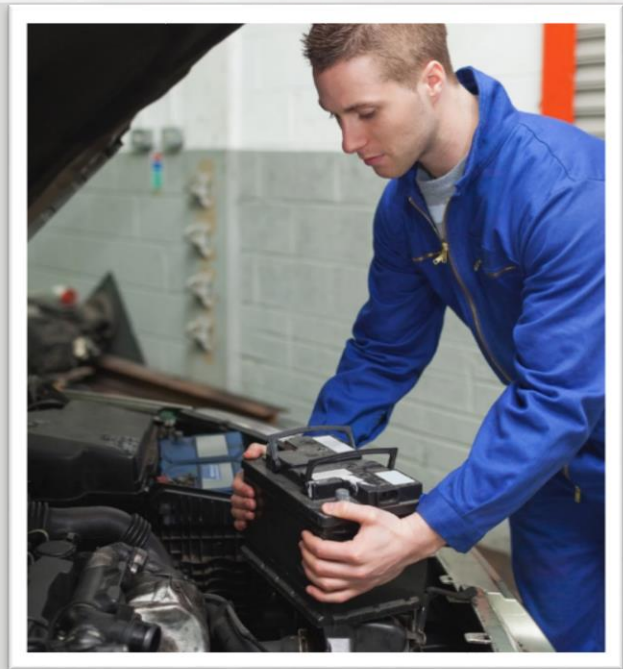
"Contact With" Injuries

The next 'shark' we need to learn to avoid as we walk through life are *contact with* injuries.

- *Contact with* injuries mostly involve someone making contact with something hot, a chemical or electricity.
- *Contact with* injuries are usually non-forceful, and are one of the major causes of dermatitis in the workplace.
- *Contact with* injuries also occur when a worker makes contact with something sharp or something sharp that is in motion.

Specific examples include:

- A worker is changing a battery in a truck and the terminals and cables are heavily corroded. He works without gloves and removes the battery. With the corrosion on his hands, he rubs his eye and causes an injury.
- A worker tries to disconnect a power tool by pulling on its extension cord. Unfortunately, his ungloved hand makes *contact with* an unnoticed bare wire and he receives a severe shock.



Contact With Hazard?



When this wire is not bent, it can be very difficult to see that there is a hazard.

If a worker brushed up against this wire with the broken insulation, the result could be a serious injury!

Supervisor Briefing Points

Preventive Measures for *Contact With Injuries*

- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment for the job.
 - Gloves, safety glasses, safety shoes, respiratory protection, radiation protective clothing, arc flash protective clothing, etc.
- Inspect electrical wires and cords and repair or replace as necessary.
- Provide rubber mats or ground-insulating mats to protect workers from potential electrical shock.
- Provide guarding or barriers to prevent *contact with* live current or hot parts.
- Provide the appropriate signs and warnings to alert others of hot surfaces or hazards associated with hot materials or electricity.
- Search out potential electrical hazards or hot surfaces that could cause injury. Once discovered, correct the hazard.
- Use emergency action plans for chemical spills, including clean up kits, proper disposal methods, personal protective equipment, neutralizers and training.

Ask yourself the following:

- ✓ Do I recognize potential *contact with injury* situations?
- ✓ Do I know how to report a safety concern?
- ✓ Do I know what to do if a co-worker is injured on the job?

EMS TIP:

Like using barriers to prevent contact with hazards, controls in MSA operations are used to prevent unwanted environmental damage. To minimize environmental harm, understand the Hierarchy of Controls.



CORE FUNCTION: 2
Identify and Analyze Hazards