

Don't Run With Scissors!

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We are very proud to announce that the Technical Division has recently surpassed 700 days without a DART (Days Away or Restricted Time) injury. This is a great testament to the safety consciousness of the TD employees. The credit most certainly goes to you.

Unfortunately we have experienced some minor injuries during this fiscal year, which are always a concern to us. Some of these injuries resulted from employees not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). In one case, injury resulted from an employee not being properly trained on what PPE was required for the job and in another case, the employee, not realizing that an object had sharp edges, was not wearing gloves.

The nature of the processes we carry out in the industrial buildings and machine shops are challenging. As such, and in light of recent injuries, we need to once more urge TD employees to take individual responsibility to perform a mental hazard analysis of every task they perform to avoid injury. If you are not familiar with the task, you are only a phone call away from receiving help. Please take a moment to ask your supervisor, subject matter expert, or the Sr. Safety Officer to assist you to get instructions to be able to complete the job safely

INCIDENT BACKGROUND	HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED
<p>An employee was using moveable safety steps to remove old internet cable from overhead that had been threaded over pipes within a cable bundle. As the employee stepped up on the first step, he hit his head on a copper pipe extending downward that had been cut off and crimped rather than capped. He was unaware that bump caps are being used by the technicians working in the area, where an extensive amount of piping creates tight quarters within which to work.</p>	<p>A number of factors led to this preventable injury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many years ago the original pipe had not been removed properly, thus producing a sharp edge. It should have been cut off and then capped with a standard rounded copper cap. • The use of bump caps had not been communicated to the employee. Bump caps had been purchased two years ago after a floor technician had bumped their head in similar tight quarters. • The employee did not adequately position the steps so that he would avoid an overhead hazard (i.e. perform a mental hazard analysis).
<p>Two slips on ice occurred at Fermilab:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While exiting a vehicle, an employee stepped on an icy patch of pavement covered with a layer of snow. The employee fell, but only required first aid treatment. • An employee was walking in a parking lot when they slipped and fell on icy pavement that was hidden by snow. The employee tried to break their fall by extending their arm and hand, resulting in an injury to their wrist. The nature of the injury and extent of severity required medical treatment (rigid wrist splint) and seven days of restricted work activity. 	<p>It takes a combination of preventative actions, such as snow removal and salting, and hazard recognition on the part of the employee, to mitigate this hazard. Pointing out hazardous conditions to building management, wearing proper foot coverings, being cognizant of the potential hazards at hand, and walking appropriately for the conditions are all steps that employees can take in an attempt to prevent these kinds of incidents from occurring.</p>

Most safety experts believe that all accidents can be prevented. As you can see by the prevention column, a little extra care and attention on the part of the individuals might have avoided these accidents from occurring.