



SAFETY ALERT

Campus Incident—Laceration

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

Date: February 2015
Category: Shop Safety
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Description

On 01/28/15, an employee was mixing ceramic materials in a 5 gallon bucket. This task was being done using an electric drill with a mixing blade attached. The mixing blade had come loose from the drill chuck. The employee was attempting to re-tighten the drill chuck using the drill chuck key. The drill started up unexpectedly when the trigger was depressed against the edge of the table. The drill chuck key spun clockwise and struck the employee on the middle finger of the right hand. The injury required 8 sutures.

Causes

- The employee failed to unplug the drill while tightening the drill chuck.

Corrective Actions

- Re-affirm need to unplug power tools before servicing, maintenance, or tool changes.
- Develop and distribute Safety Alert to communicate lessons learned to employees performing similar tasks.

Picture of electric drill and mixing blade involved in incident.

Reminder : Tools powered by 110 Volt electric cords must be unplugged and the plug must be in your control when performing tasks such as drill bit changes, tightening drill chucks, changing saw blades, replacing grinding wheels, etc. to prevent unintentional startup.

