



eSafetyLine Case Study #2

An employee in was using a ½ inch electric drill to drill hole in an overhead joists. The drill was attached to a series of three extension cord, two of which had missing grounding pins and one of the cords was missing outer insulation for about ½ inch from each end exposing the wires. The cords extended through a doorway to the outside, where the receptacle ends were lying in puddles of rainwater and mud from recent rain. The cords were plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) receptacle which had been previously certified by the local municipality.

The employer arrived at the scene having not been able to contact the victim by phone. The victim was found lying face down in a puddle of water on the floor with the electric drill underneath him. The employer called emergency services and the police were the first respondents. The police disconnected both the extension cord from the drill and the extension cord from the receptacle of the GFCI. No pulse could be located and rigor mortis had begun so the EMS was notified to slow down. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene by the coroner.

The GFCI was tested with a volt meter with readings of 120V from both sockets. When the test button of the GFCI was pressed several times and it did not trip out. It was also noted that the ground pin was clipped off the extension cord that had been plodded into the GFCI socket. The power was properly grounded with two ground rods. Four recommendations were made to prevent another incident like this from occurring:

- Employers should ensure that electrical service supplied to a construction site complies with all OSHA standards, the National Electric Code and local

regulations.

- Employers should implement a preventive maintenance program to keep cords, plugs, receptacles and tools in good operating condition
- Test GFCIs on a daily basis
- Evaluate work areas to identify hazardous work conditions.

Discussion Questions

How would testing GFCIs daily prevented this incident?

What work area hazards were present at this site?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/_____

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date