

VOLTS NEWSLETTER

Valuing Our Lives Through Safety

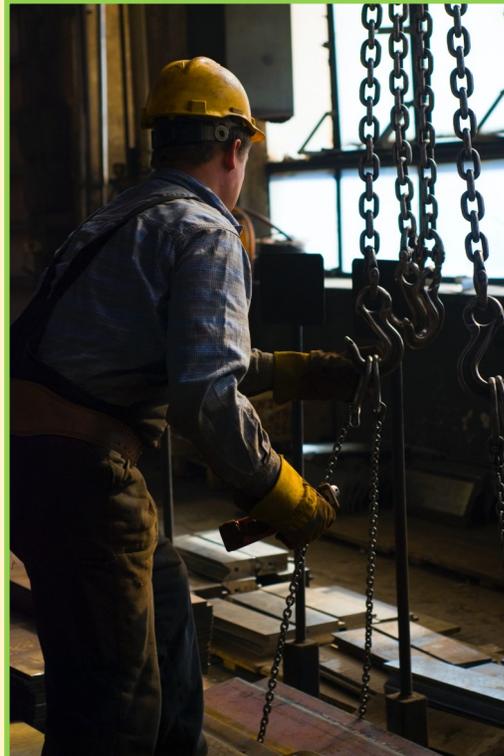
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The Element of Luck in Safety—Casey Draper

Picture this...an employee climbs onto a motor pedestal to secure the rigging for a lift needed in order to replace a large electric motor. He finishes, steps backwards, stumbles on some conduit, and falls four feet onto his back hitting the concrete floor. In reality, this type of activity could happen every day while working at an industrial power production facility. Hopefully, the injured employee would be treated and released with only a minor injury or bruising. If that employee wasn't so lucky and hit his head, the outcome could be much worse.



We know that human behavior is influenced by the element of luck. Consider this: according to the IPSC monthly OSHA injury and illness report, between April 1 and June 30, 2021, there were two recordable injuries within our organization out of the 32,217 identified exposures (IPSC). Our levels of control have helped the effectiveness of protecting IPSC employees, and while injury rates can give us insight into what is happening within our organization, we must account for some lucky outcomes when we evaluate the number and severity of our overall safety performance.

Let's take a closer look at the hypothetical fallen employee and break down the events prior to his fall. First, the employee stepped backward without looking. Second, he did not make three points of contact while descending from the motor pedestal toward the floor. Third, his foot

unexpectedly came into contact with the conduit, causing him to lose his balance and fall.

Fortunately, there wasn't a protruding object between him and the floor. While looking at the accident site, another concrete pad with a raised edge was noticed just a few feet away from where the employee landed. Had he fallen there, the probability of serious injury would have been much higher. Fourth, he was fortunate that when he fell, he didn't land at an angle that would have

concentrated the force of the fall onto his shoulder or wrist.

A coined phrase that I recently learned states, "The absence of injury does not always mean there is a presence of safety" (Exposure Recognition, 2020). By shifting the conversation away from the employee's behavior and redirecting it to exposure recognition and reduction, we would need to flawlessly complete 657,000 work actions to maintain a perfect safety record...if our 360 IPSC employees performed approximately five work actions daily for a year—regardless of the weather conditions, level of fatigue, or sense of urgency.

As IPSC employees, we continue to set records for days worked without a lost-time accident. To help sharpen your skills in exposure recognition, the VOLTS Steering Committee wants to assist

Spring 2021 Outage Safety in Action Awards—Casey Draper, cont.

each employee to proactively engage in hazard reduction. New efforts by the VOLTS Steering Committee will include a focused series of newsletters designed to increase your exposure awareness along with a more systematic approach to exposure-based safety. In addition, VOLTS refresher training will provide employees a realistic opportunity to identify exposures within the working systems we operate and maintain daily.

Key topics of discussion will be:

The Five Critical Exposures

- Line of fire
- Energized equipment
- Working from heights
- Pinch points
- Confined Space



SIF Definitions and Recognition

- Fatal
- Life threatening
- Life altering

References

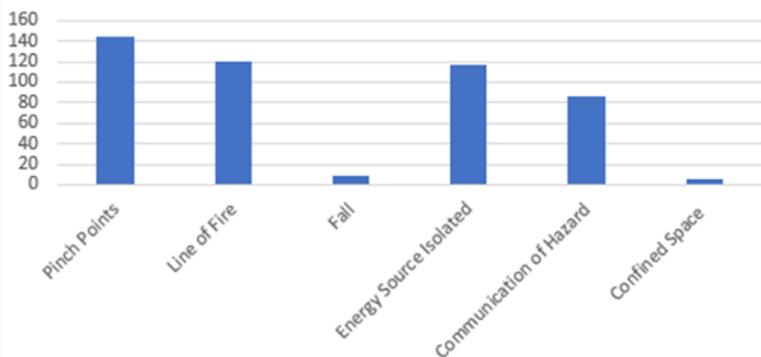
Exposure Recognition, 2020. *Digital Safety in Action*. <https://digital.safetyinaction.com/>.

Groover, D, 2018. Autopsy of an injury – uncovering 18 million exposures in one activity. *DEKRA White Paper*. <https://www.dekra.us/en/organizational-safety-reliability/content-page-154/>.

IPSC *Occupational Injury and Illness Summary* (2021, June). *Monthly OSHA Recordkeeping Report*.

VOLTS Data Report—Casey Draper

June 2021 Number of Critical Exposures Observed



IPSC Employee Observation Quality



IPSC Employee Contact Rate

1.08

June 2021 Top Five At-Risk Exposures

