

Safety Alert

Employee LTI

Drill slipped off and injured the finger

INCIDENT DETAILS

The electrician was installing an LED office light – overhead – in the "Denkfabrik". He needed to secure the lampshade to the lamp housing using sheet metal screws, a task that required pre-drilling. While doing so, the drill bit (4mm) slipped off the lamp housing and injured the thumb of the left hand he was using to steady the fixture. He received initial first aid and was taken to the hospital for treatment, where the wound was cleaned and closed after a small surgery. The employee was then sent to sick leave to rest his hand. Based on legal requirements in Germany, wearing protective gloves while drilling is not permitted.

REVIEW POINTS FOR ALL SITES

- Take 5 was carried out before start the maintenance job but not in the right quality – always do a Take 5 in a good quality.
- As a manager, check during VFL's if Take 5 is carried out regularly.
- Carry out assembly works with a colleague whenever possible.
- Usage of mounting fixture, whenever possible.
- Perform repair work in a safe environment. In this case, the lamp should have been dismantled and repaired at a suitable workstation.

KEY FINDINGS

✓	Injured person had received all required safety trainings including Take 5
✓	All used equipment and tools were in a good condition
✗	Risk assessment was not updated; Take 5 not carried out with the right quality
✗	Subjective time pressure, as further tasks were planned at the same day.
✗	Work was carried out alone and no mounting fixture was used
✗	The work was unnecessarily performed upside down from a ladder



Tools and Equipment

Use the right, well maintained, tools/equipment for the job. Never make do.



Safe Systems

Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.