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INCIDENT ALERT
An electrician was in the process of pulling electrical wires into a panel. Soap had been applied to the wires to facilitate pulling them through an existing conduit. He was wearing all of his personal protective equipment, including gloves. As the work progressed his gloves became slick from the soap, so he chose to remove them in order to get a better grip on the wire. At one point during the work his hand slipped from the wire and his left middle finger knuckle struck a sharp edge of the panel, resulting in a laceration. He bandaged the laceration and then drove himself to a clinic where he received 8 stitches, then was released to return to work.

LESSONS LEARNED
The worker had planned his task, including the need for hand protection. He did not, however, take into account the very likely possibility that his glove would become slick from the soap. Having towels or rags readily available to periodically wipe his gloves would have helped in reducing the likelihood of his hands slipping. Also, many electrical panels have sharp areas and present a potential for cuts when working around them. As a result of the injury the company has implemented a policy of inspecting panels for sharp edges and, if identified, installing a softener over the sharp edge to eliminate the possibility of a similar injury.

ACTION ITEMS
1. Ask your contractor about how they manage job hazard analysis and task planning for common daily tasks. Ask how work areas are inspected and how sharp objects and their associated hazards are identified and addressed.

2. Watch for tasks that may result in similar injuries during your walk through. Are workers performing tasks that could potentially result in their body parts contacting sharp objects? If so, what precautions have been taken to assure their activities will not result in an injury? Have they developed a task plan that includes appropriate methods of protection?

3. Share this Incident Alert with your contractor and ask them to share it with their workers.

Distribution:
All CPO Staff