

Cut-Off Saw Lost Time Injury – Frankley WTW

Incident Summary

What happened?

On 21-052019, during a planned process of cutting a large cast iron pipe (with a keel cutter), a deviation to prescribed RAMS was made and a petrol cutting saw was introduced and used. Unfortunately following this change, the petrol saw kicked back and the blade struck the user's face causing a significant cut / injury to the users face (IP).

What are the consequences?

The cut to the IP's face was from his top lip to underneath his chin, requiring hospitalisation and specialist medical treatment. The current prognosis is for a good recovery, however long term scarring and/or nerve damage is possible.

What was the Potential?

There was a realistic potential for a greater injury or fatality, as machinery and tools such as this are dangerous if not used correctly or treated with respect. Consequently we ask all readers to heed this event and ask themselves - could this happen in your work, with your colleagues or at your site?

Photographs



Injured Party



Saw kick back zone

What caused this accident – (What We Need To Do Differently):

- An incorrect disc was used for this task. – **Correct selection of the disc is essential for safe working.**
- The chosen position & ergonomics were not correct. – **Always allow sufficient room to safely work.**
- The saw blade entered the known kick back zone. – **Always follow the equipment safety manual & directions.**
- The introduction of the petrol cut off saw was a deviation from the prescribed SSOW. – **Any deviation from a prescribed safe system of work must be assessed and authorised.**
- The selection of the petrol saw introduced greater hazards than those of a keel cutter. – **Always seek a less hazardous process before deploying a cut off saw.**
- The risk was not assessed at the point of deviation. – **Remember: STOP – TAKE 20 – SEEK APPROVAL.**
- Colleagues did not intervene when the team deviated from the SSOW. – **Look after your mate! – challenge and prevent an incident.**

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Lessons Learnt

