

Safety Alert - March 09 BNL Medical Treatment Incident – Cut in Fore-Arm

WHAT HAPPENED?

When cutting a section of a 2" Flexwell Secon-X piping, a worker grazed with his right arm against the sharp and unprotected end of the pipe. A burr perforated his sweater and cut in his fore-arm. The resulting injury required 6 stitches.



WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

Improper work method followed

- End of pipe not cut according manufactures instructions
 - o An angle grinder was used which left burrs
 - o A clean cut needs to be made by cutting off 1 cm of pipe with a hand saw
 - o End of pipe not protected with a cap or tape

Worker

- Did not notice the presence of the burr and the resulting risk of cutting himself
- Was not fully aware of the correct cutting procedure
- Was trying to make up for time that was lost earlier in the project - was not solicited to do so

Documentation

- Because the Contractor was installing this type of piping for the first time, an on Site briefing was delivered by the supplier, however it did not address the activity of cutting the piping to the correct length
- Relying on the supplier's instruction – no JSA - not even a generic on piping work- was reviewed during the Start Work discussion in the morning

WHAT COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE INCIDENT / LESSONS LEARNED?

Design and tools - Use of the proper tool to cut the piping and the use of a protective cap

Procedures / JSA

- A JSA should have been developed, based on Supplier's working instructions, which should cover all steps of the process, including the appropriate body protection
- The instruction itself should have taken place Earlier in time with worker's full understanding ensured

Organization

- **Site supervision** / Start work discussion should have addressed:
 - o The work and the review of the supporting JSA - when working with new material the review of the JSA is even more critical
 - o The potential for inappropriate rushing / short cutting due to the delay in the planning

Person

- The worker Should have applied a continuous **LRMA** process

The Last Minute Risk Assessment is a continuous process because..

The Next Minute can be your last one....

Issued 10/04/2009

