

Laceration to finger while using a pipe cutter

What Happened?

The operative was assisting another operative in setting up the split frame cutter to cut a 1000mm pipe section. The cut was almost complete with the injured party decided to remove some metal swarf from the top of the pipe section within range of the split frame cutter. The injured party received a deep laceration to his right index finger.

It can be seen from the photographs that the operative had to make a significant effort to place his hand in to the cutting blade.



Lessons for the Group

This is one of three incidents on the Olympic park during July.

The injury occurred the second time the operative undertook this hazardous activity. The injured party had been warned previously that this was against the approved working procedure detailed in the method statement and to stop immediately. This shows the importance of behavioural safety with members of teams warning each other hazardous working practices. Behavioural safety also gives the receiver of the information the responsibility to act accordingly – which in this case did not happen. This situation would be a classic where the “NAB initiative” could make a difference.

The machine is now surrounded by herras fencing to provide a physical barrier to deter operatives entering the cutting area. However, this is not an inter-locked guard so if an operative does enter the area the machine will not stop working so is easily overcome.

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