



MTC HiPo – CUTTING INJURY WITH ANGLE GRINDER

Number	2023-01	Date	10.01.2023
---------------	---------	-------------	------------

Summary:

The injured person (IP) was carrying out dismantling work on the boiler in a kneeling position using a large angle grinder. He had to hold the angle grinder at chest or head height. While carrying out the work holding the machine with two hands, the fitter slipped. Due to the relatively heavy weight of the machine and the unfavourable upright position, both of his arms were lowered down by the equipment. He reflexively held the machine with both hands and unfortunately also the machine's control switch then the machine hit his thigh with the still rotating cutting disc cutting his trousers and superficially his thigh. Only then he let go or dropped the angle grinder and then the grinder stopped immediately.

Outcomes:

The IP was transported to the hospital by ambulance and there the wound was treated with 10 stitches on the left thigh. The IP was back at work the next shift.

Incident Classification: Level 1 Medical Treatment Case – HiPo (high potential)



The cutting process with a large, heavy angle grinder in an awkward physical posture



The approximate injury position at the time of the accident

Root Causes and Contributory Factors

- **Inadequate Risk Assessment**
The risk analysis did not explicitly address the risks of possible cuts caused by jamming of cutting tools.
- **Lack of risk perception**
Due to the absence of this hazard in the risk analysis and the non-execution of TAKE 5 during the night shift, the risk could not be perceived properly.
- **Awkward ergonomics** Working with heavy tools (large angle grinder approx. 5.5 kg) while kneeling and using the grinding wheel at chest and head height.
- **Incorrect PPE:** No use of face shield when using grinding machines.

Action and Lesson Learned

- Implement the TAKE5 system to all employees and subcontractors on site on all shifts and week-end work.
- Ensure adequate Risk Assessment
- Ensure the working areas are always inspected before starting the activities and when the working space is restricted, HSE Dept shall be consulted to ensure the Risk Assessment, working tools/equipment, illumination etc are suitable and the risk is minimized to the lowest reasonably possible level.
- When carrying out the work in difficult/unstable ergonomic positions, plan and implement additional breaks at shorter intervals for the employees to recover.
- Ensure the implementation of mandatory use of the face shields for grinding and chipping activities.



Every Lesson Learned is an opportunity to avoid recurrences.
What have you done to avoid a similar incident on your project?

