



FUELS INDUSTRY
Association of South Africa

Sasol - Instrument artisan grinder incident. 25 March 2024

2024



INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

Description of Incident: While cutting a unistrut with an angle grinder (115 mm), the senior instrument artisan sustained a laceration to the left hand from the angle grinder.



The Unistrut that the instrument artisan was cutting with a grinder (the unistrut was found on the chair after the incident occurred)



INCIDENT UNDERLYING AND ROOT CAUSE

Deviation from approved method, procedure or rule by any individual, supervisor, manager or group of people:

The senior instrument artisan did not secure the unistrut before cutting as per the SHE requirements for hand and pneumatic tools work instruction. The senior instrument artisan stated that he felt that the unistrut was sufficiently secured on the floor as it was a flat surface and due the length of the unistrut.

Risk management systems TRA / SOP / PTR A SLAM / PDA / PTO inadequate / insufficient:

The task risk assessment refers to an outdated welding technology work instruction instead of the SHE requirements for hand and pneumatic tools work instruction which provides more detailed preventative and mitigating controls for hand and pneumatic tools that could have been incorporated into the task risk assessment. No task risk assessment is available for the safer alternative method with the cut-off machine.

Hazard not recognized or appreciated:

- The senior instrument artisan was cutting the Unistrut in a crouched position facing towards the power supply, which caused the electrical cord to be in the direct line of fire. There was also no play on the electrical cord.
- The senior instrument artisan used a crisscross motion while cutting with the angle grinder. The position of the senior instrument artisan's left hand was directly in the line of fire.



INCIDENT LEARNINGS

Low risk perception:

Frequent safety discussions should be conducted on the consequences of injuries when working with high-risk tools in order to prevent team members from developing a lower risk perception on the use of high-risk tools.

Safety climate and team norms:

- Management should conduct frequent green area discussions with employees, regarding possible at-risk behaviour and the consequences of not adhering to procedures, task risk assessments etc.
- Employees should always stop unsafe work and be each other's 'brothers' / 'sisters' keeper. Stopping unsafe work, help to send everyone home safely.
- Employees should take accountability for their actions and ensure that they adhere to all safety requirements in order to go home safely.

Training and competency declaration:

Management should identify the requirements for the competency declaration for the utilisation of the grinders and incorporate these requirements into the training matrix.

Task risk assessment:

- Management should ensure PPE requirements as per task risk assessment are available, used and inspected to ensure that this control is effective.
- When conducting task risk assessments ensure that the correct documentation is used and referenced to provide the most effective / detailed preventative and mitigating controls.
- Management should ensure when making reference to a procedure in a task risk assessment that the procedure is still valid.



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Thank You

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