

Lessons Learned

Date: 1/25/2021

Region: National Projects WA

Project: V-Fab shop

Incident Title: **Grinder Strikes Again, Causes 3" Laceration**

Summary

Employee was utilizing a DeWalt heavy-duty grinder equipped with cut-off grinding wheel to prepare some angle iron to be welded. Employee was holding the grinder with both hands and the grinder kicked back, the force of the kick back caused the grinder to hit the employee in the left thigh causing a 3' laceration. Employee was taken to On-Scene Medical and received 8 stitches before returning to work.



What Went Right?

- Proper PPE was worn
- All safety features of the equipment were in place.
- Foremen immediately administered 1st Aid.
- Injured was transported to medical facility for further evaluation and met by safety.
- Proper notifications made.

What Went Wrong?

- Not inspecting tools and equipment before use, the employee would have noticed the rotation was in the wrong direction.
- Complacency in everyday tasks that we perform.
- Poor body placement while grinder was in use.

Lessons Learned

- **Complacency! The silent Killer. Never take tasks for granted even the simple tasks that are performed every day.**
- **Always inspect your tools and equipment before each use to ensure they are in good working order and the tool is the correct tool for the task. When using hand tools, keep your hand and wrist in a neutral or "natural" position as much as possible. Don't force your hands or wrists into awkward postures just to fit the tool or the work.**
- **Stay alert, never put yourself in the line of fire. (Body Placement)**