Lessons Learned

Date: 8/29/2023 Region: National Projects - Oak Ridge, TN

Project: UPF V-154 Y-12 Incident Title: Sprain/Strain/Wrist (Drill Kickback)

Summary

Employees were drilling holes in a stainless-steel flange to connect the duct work. They had a plan to drill pilot holes and move up in size to get to the desired 9/16 size needed. In the process, on one of the holes being drilled, the drill bit bound up causing the bit to stop and the employee to lose some control of the drill and spinning his hand and wrist around causing some pain. Employees reported to the supervisor right away and the all the appropriate calls were made to get the employee to the onsite medical team. Employee received ice and was released back to work without restrictions.

Picture

What Went Right?

- Employees were wearing all required PPE.
- Employee reported to supervisor immediately.
- The team responded by making all appropriate calls and getting employee to site medical.
- No injury was sustained.
- All handles were on the equipment being used.

What Went Wrong?

- Employee was not holding the drill tight enough.
- The drill got to a bad angle by employee causing it to bite and stop. Ergonomics/body positioning.

- **5 common causes of power drill injuries**
  1. Inattention of the user
  2. Unexpected interruption while working
  3. Inexperience of the user
  4. Over confidence of the user
  5. Faulty design

Lessons Learned

- When drilling stainless flanges assess the situation and see if there is a better way to perform the work?
- Using the correct tools for the application, (Cone) or Step bit possibly.
- A punch should be used in this application.
- Always use a drill equipped with a clutch and or kickback feature.