

Incident Sharing

Simple Task Results in Six Stitches and OSHA Recordable Injury

Date: February 16, 2009

Location: ExxonMobil Port Jerome (PJ) Gravenchon Lube Oil Blend Plant - France

Incident: A Console Operator, in order to open a plastic package (containing a stapler), used a standard "retractable blade" cutter. The plastic package was positioned backwards on the thigh of the operator (as shown below). The cutter slipped and resulted in a laceration to the right thigh. The cut was about 4 cm long requiring 6 stitches.

Root Causes:

- Lack of SPSA (Safe Performance Self Assessment) prior to task execution
- The package should not have been opened on his leg (thigh/knee)
- Despite the fact that the operator used a standard retractable cutter, another tool (such as a rounded edge scissor) would have been more appropriate. The retractable blade cutter, however, by its function and design, limited the depth of the cut.

Reminders:

- Always perform a last minute risk assessment
- Always make certain you are using the right tool for the task
- Never cut with your body or someone else's body in the line of fire



Incident Sharing

Contractor Recordable Injury at Chalmette Refinery – Cut To Finger Requiring Sutures

Date: January 31, 2009

Location: ExxonMobil Chalmette Refinery

Incident: A contractor was injured while preparing dinner for an event later that evening. Kitchen trailers were staged at the training / Fitness Facility and were being prepped for cafeteria services. The employee was walking through a kitchen trailer and scraped his left hand against exposed AC metal duct-work, cutting his left hand pinky finger. The laceration required three stitches.



Initial Findings:

The incident investigation revealed the following:

- Contract employee was inattentive when preparing and setting up the kitchen for cooking meals.
- A detailed safety inspection was not performed prior to putting the kitchen trailer in service.
- Kitchen area was congested with equipment and people.

Learnings:

- When preparing a job site for work, ensure a detailed safety inspection is performed on the equipment and work area to identify and mitigate any potential hazards prior to starting work. In this case the exposed metal duct work presented a hazard that should have been corrected during the installation of the equipment. Dedicate the time to properly prepare your work sites prior to starting work. Even the simplest of job task can present a potential hazard to yourself and others.
- When working in tight quarters or congested work areas, **STOP, SLOW DOWN** and assess the work area and communicate any potential hazards. Determine who and what is needed to work in the congested or tight area safely. Remove any excess materials and / or equipment and limit thru traffic of personnel to prevent against congestion. It's important to remember to use good body mechanics and positioning to prevent against potential strains and contusions when working in congested environments.