



# Learning From Incidents

## Burn Injury While Using a Liquid Propane Torch

### Brief Description of the Incident

While pre-heating a girth weld with a liquid propane torch, the torch operator redirected the flame away from the pipe to avoid contacting another employee. This caused the flame to contact the operators outer clothing and resulted in a burn to the upper left arm.



### **Consider and Discuss the Following Latencies**

#### **Managers and Supervisors**

- Are we involving the right subject matter experts when developing and refining Job Hazard Assessments?
- Are we coaching and mentoring to ensure that site specific hazards and controls are identified on our crew member's Field Level Hazard Assessments?
- Are we challenging complacent thinking that leads us to believing that certain tasks are routine to everyone?

#### **Crew Members**

- When I look out for other people's safety do I tend to overlook my own safety and place myself at risk?
- When something does not feel right do I immediately stop work to discuss my concerns?

### Direct Causes

•**Improper position for task:** The torch was held in a manner that resulted in the employees body becoming positioned in the line of fire.

### Underlying Causes and Contributing Factors

•**Focused on the wrong risk:** The torch operator's attention became focused solely on the other employee. The operator overlooked their own potential risk of sustaining a burn.

•**Inadequate identification of hazards:** The Job Hazard Assessment (JHA) that had been referenced by the operator did not take into consideration the additional hazards associated when two employees perform pre-heat tasks versus a single employee. The JHA did not provide controls to address the higher flame and higher heat output generated by a liquid propane torch versus the more commonly used vapor tiger torch.

### Key Learning Points

1. **Job Hazard Assessments need to be focused on identifying and controlling the higher risk steps.**
2. **When controlling risks, body positioning and workplace design must be considered.**
3. **It is critical that Site Supervision ensure that employees are competent for the tasks that they are assigned.**
4. **If a deviation from a Job Hazard Assessment is intended, it should be identified, reviewed and understood by all employees prior to performing the task.**

**Category: Hand Tools (Onshore)**

**Contact Ledcor HSE for more details**