

## **Safety Alert: Minor Injury during Grinding**

An incident occurred recently at one of our Field Service sites in the US where a Technician received a cut to his leg whilst carrying out pipe preparations using a hand held grinder.

### **CAUSE**

- The injured Technician had complete the preparation work on his side of the pipe with the hand held grinder.
- The IP was lowering the grinder to the floor but the disk was still rotating and it caught him on the leg.
- The rotating disk cut through the IP's overalls and caused a cut to his leg. The IP attended a local clinic where the wound was treated and cleaned.

### **GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS – HAND HELD GRINDERS**

- Only trained, competent and authorised personnel are to use hand held grinders.
- Pre use inspections are to be carried out before using hand held grinders, defective equipment should be removed from the work area to prevent further use.
- Hand held grinders should be disconnected from power sources before carrying out any maintenance including the changing of grinding disks.
- Good levels of communications should be established between technicians when working on pipe sections.
- Technicians should remain in complete control of grinders until the disks have come to a complete stop.
- Tool stands should be used in the work area so grinders can be secured when not in use.
- All incidents including near misses should be reported to supervisors so lessons can be learned for other projects.
- We are all responsible for safety, if you see colleagues using grinders in an unsafe manner then intervene and help make the work place safer.

- ▶ **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CREATE A SAFER WORKPLACE?**
- ▶ **CAN YOU DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY?**
- ▶ **CAN YOU DO DIFFERENT THINGS?**
- ▶ **WILL YOU MAKE AND MEET COMMITMENTS TO SEEK OUT BEST PRACTICES AND PUT THEM TO USE?**