

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 1/25/2021

The Incident

An associate was cutting a 10-foot-long piece of 4-inch PVC pipe with a 4-inch portaband in a trench. After finishing the cut, the associate took their left hand off the handle to lift the portaband off the cut pipe. When the associate lifted the saw with their right hand, it caused the trigger to be pulled again and the blade made contact with their left index finger, causing a laceration that required medical attention.

The Causes

- The associate became complacent during the task and removed their hand from the handle, placing it in the line of fire.
- The associate did not engage the trigger lock after the cut was completed.
- Cut Level 3 gloves were not being worn on site.

Prevent It

- Practice proper tool usage and keep your hands out of the line of fire.
- Make sure the trigger lock is engaged after each cut.
- Make sure all associates have the site-required Cut Level 3 gloves.

Action Plan

- A safety stand down with the crew covered proper tool usage, line of fire and site-required PPE.
- The incident findings will be shared with the crew and all GEM associates.

Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.