

## Safety Flash

### Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 6/10/2021

#### The Incident

An associate was preparing to cut a 6-inch pipe for demolition with a 6-inch DeWalt corded grinder. The associate set the grinder on the pipe to be cut face down so he could put on his face shield and reposition himself. When repositioning, his right leg snagged the cord, moving the grinder and activating the power switch. The grinder ran on the pipe and traveled to his left leg, lacerating his inner left thigh.

#### The Causes

Constricted work area

- Other piping and ductwork were in the work area.
- The work was elevated.
- There were limited options for body placement because of the other piping and ductwork.

Safety mechanism on trigger

- The trigger can be operated accidentally by design.
- The trigger is on the bottom of the grinder.
- The safety button can easily be depressed by setting it on an object.
- The trigger can be engaged easily using one hand.
- The trigger safety is different than Metabo models.

Additional PPE needed

- Cut-rated protective leg chaps (because of limited positioning options).

#### Prevent It

- More thorough tool selection and inspection.
- Detailed risk assessment for specific tasks.
  - The job procedure was planned and communicated by the foreman and the STAC was completed.
  - Will identify other options for access and additional PPE.
- Task-specific and appropriate PPE (cut rated chaps).

#### Action Plan

- Identify similar grinders with the same type of safety trigger, remove them from service and replace them with appropriate grinders.
- Communicate this issue to the tool room and warehouse.
- Research and purchase cut-rated chaps for grinding.

#### 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.