

## Safety Flash

### Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 11/20/2019

#### The Incident

Two associates were installing 10 feet sticks of 3 inch Schedule 80 PVC conduit in an excavation about 3 feet deep and 2 feet wide. One associate was applying glue and aligning the ends of the pipe as the second associate pushed from the opposite end. The second associate pushed and leaned his body weight on the pipe, using only his right hand with his arm straight down. As he did this, the second associate felt a tearing/ burning sensation in his right arm.

#### The Causes

- The associate's awkward body position.
- The narrow trench created a constricted work area.
- The repetitive task - the crew had installed about 30 sections in about 45 minutes.

#### Prevent It

- Setting a board across the trench to elevate the joint being glued would have resulted in better body positioning for both associates performing the task.
- Widen the trench to give the crew room for easier movement and more comfortable body position.
- Rotate crew members to give people breaks on repetitive tasks.

#### Action Plan

- Better discussion on installation layout.
- Better discussion on setting up worksites.

#### 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.

