

Safety Flash

Incident with recordable injury

Incident: An associate was using a skill saw to trim 10-foot pieces of plastic L-shaped waterstop. He had to trim about 1½ inches off each wing to fit the application. With the uncut waterstop supported on the worktable, the associate cut the waterstop while holding the cut end with his right hand behind the saw. When he stopped to reposition the material and started the saw again, it kicked back and cut his finger.

Possible contributing factors:

- The type of waterstop specified had to be cut to fit and could not be cut with a knife.
- The associate did not have both hands on the saw; instead, he had his right hand behind the saw to hold and pull the material as it was cut.
- Although the associate had built a jig and used it to cut the material earlier, he decided it was faster and easier to cut without the jig, because the unsecured section of waterstop was flexible and moving in the jig.
- The associate did not take the time to get clamps or secure the material in the jig he had built.
- The task was not discussed during pre-task planning or on the STACs.
- After he repositioned the material, the associate did not make sure that the saw blade was not caught in the material before starting the saw again.

Primary contributing factor:

- The associate did not take the time to get clamps or secure the material in the jig he had built.

Possible solutions:

- Investigate different sizes and types of waterstop material.
- Secure the material to keep it stable while cutting and hold the saw with both hands. Hold effective pre-task plans and complete STACs to include all tasks being performed and make sure all equipment is available before you begin the task.

Action plan:

- Different types and sizes of waterstop material are being investigated.
- The jig was used successfully once the material was secured.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Rick Wallace, Lima, 419/705-9170 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.



A re-enactment