

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0030
Subject:	Jammed Drill - Sprained Wrist
Date :	February 2008

Incident:

An employee was required to drill holes in a number of steel pipes with a hand-held electric drill. There were no clamps or a vice provided to the worker to secure the work to be drilled. As such he supported the pieces on a wooden crate and pallet, creating a poor work posture. During the drilling of one item, the drill bit jammed (possibly due to the work moving). There was no clutch on the chuck of the drill. The torque twisted the drill in the worker's hands causing a strain injury to his wrist.



Above: work supported on wooden crate and pallets not facilitating an appropriate posture.



Above: Work should be secured in a vice, mounted on a bench at an appropriate work height.

Key Lessons:

- ***To alert employees of the hazards of drilling un-secured work with a hand-held drill.***

Recommendations:

- **Always secure work to be drilled to ensure that it cannot twist or move.**
- **Work should be secured in a vice mounted at an appropriate height to facilitate a strong grip / control on the drill.**
- **Ensure to purchase / use hand-held drills with a clutch that will prevent the drill body spinning out of the operator's grip when jammed.**

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
Tel: (03) 9694 4499; Fax (03) 9694 4498; email - ianc@steel.org.au

*** Safety Alerts are distributed by Australian Steel Institute as general information ONLY and are not intended as specific recommendations or advice ***