

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0014
Subject:	Hand entangled in saw blade
Date :	May 2006

Incident:

- Operator was cutting a line pipe into 8 lengths. The operator was trained to the SOP which was located at the saw. After completing the fourth cut he stopped the saw to adjust the pipe in the clamp.
- Operator re-started the machine. He noticed some swarf on the pipe and proceeded to wipe it off the pipe with his gloved hand.
- Operator's hand became entangled in the blade which resulted in a finger amputation.



Key Lessons:

- The saw was partly guarded and did not prevent interaction between operator and blade.
- The SOP covered general cutting but not the cutting of specific products and did not address the specific difficulties in cutting the particular product.
- No appropriate tool available to remove swarf from pipe.

Recommendations:

- Review all saws at your site for the risk of entanglement.
- Do a risk assessment on the risk of entanglement and review the SOP.
- Ensure hands cannot be near saw blades during operation.

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