

Thameslink Programme

Health & Safety – Good Practice 026

Clamp Before Cut

Overview/Description

The Costain Construction team at London Bridge Redevelopment worked over 8 million man hours without a RIDDOR reportable accident. However, during a pipe cutting activity in August 2016 an accident occurred resulting in a RIDDOR reportable 7 day injury.

A plumber sustained a deep cut to his finger that required surgery when he put his hand into the open end of a rotating 1.2m long, 6" diameter pipe that was being cut by a Blucher cutter.

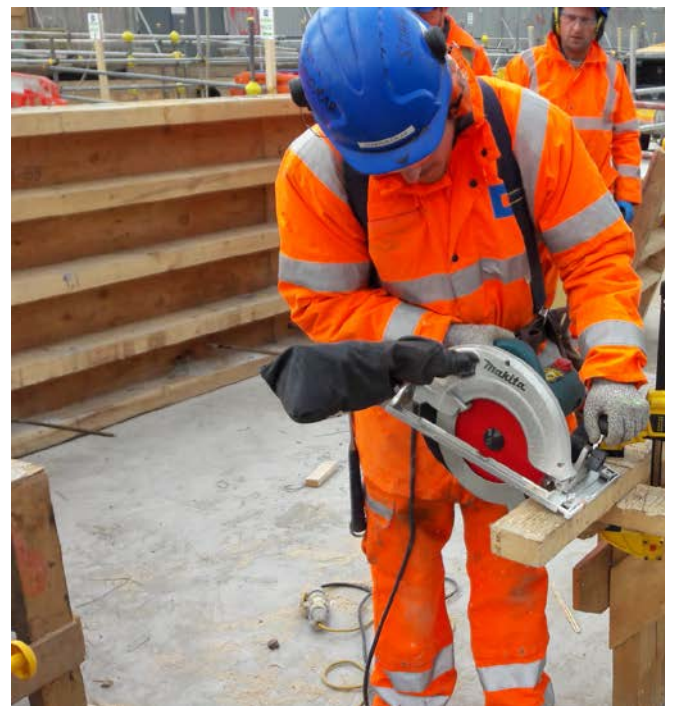
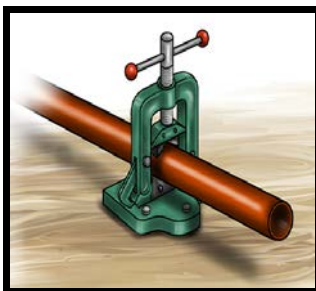
The IP was injured because the clamp was not applied when the operator started the machine.

Other cutting activities were reviewed throughout the site and it was deemed that a clamp before cut mandate would help reduce the likelihood of more accidents during cutting operations.

Ultimately the cutting materials must be reduced as far as practically possible however when it is unavoidable then it was considered that clamping would provide an additional control for the activity.

Benefits

- Holds / secures materials in place to prevent movement
- More likely to require a bench hence providing a safer cutting location
- Teams need to plan their cutting so that cutting stations / clamps are available
- Forms habits in behaviours and engaging people in safe working practices



Examples of Clamping shown above