



SAFETY ALERT

WORKER SUSTAINED A SEVERELY BROKEN WRIST AND LACERATION INJURY

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WHAT HAPPENED:

Our 3rd Year Heavy Fabrication Apprentice was using a drill press to drill out 6mm holes in a mild steel plate. The drill bit worked loose whilst touching the job surface.

The apprentice attempted to adjust the chuck whilst the drill press was still running.

The grub screw on the drill chuck grabbed the apprentice's riggers glove that he was wearing and pulled his hand into the machine causing a badly broken wrist and a severe laceration injury to his hand.

This injury required emergency surgery and an extended stay in hospital for our apprentice.



Drill Press



Grub Screw in Chuck



Destroyed glove



Apprentice Injured Hand

WHY DID IT HAPPEN (DIRECT CAUSE):

There are three contributing factors relating to this incident:

1. The apprentice did not follow Safe Work Practices when using the drill. The drill press should have been stopped before making an adjustment
2. The apprentice was wearing loose fitting leather riggers gloves, not the tight fitting cut resistant HyFlex gloves supplied as part of 1300apprentice's PPE list.
3. The grub screw on the chuck protrudes out from the chuck by approximately 8mm. This grub screw is what grabbed the apprentice's glove.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Safe Work Procedures not being followed
- Correct PPE not being worn
- The drill press has a grub screw that protrudes from the chuck.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- Host employer to review the Safe Work Procedure of the Drill Press and reinstate if necessary



1300 apprentice

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- Ensure all workers are re instructed on the Safe Work Procedures of the drill press
- Ensure all workers wear a tight fitting glove and clothing when operating any type of rotating machine
- Remove the protruding grub screw (*figure 5*) and replace with a sunken grub screw with no protruding head on it as pictured in (*figure 6*) below.



Fig. 5 Grub Screw (Protruding)



Fig 6. Grub Screw (Sunken)

KEY LEARNING POINTS:

- A risk assessment must be completed on all machines **regularly** to ensure that there has been no modifications been made to the machine that could cause a Work Health and Safety Risk to workers.
- Tight fitting clothing, including hair net if required, must be worn **at all times** with any type of Rotating Machine
- All of the above **must** be a part of a Safe Work Procedure that workers are trained in regularly as part of an induction and tool box talks.

Safety.....It's my Job

For further information contact: Darren Gibson – WHS Manager 1300apprentice