



Finger injury during use of angle grinder

Nan Hai VI – Maersk Drilling
6th January 2010

FACTS ABOUT THE INCIDENT

- 14.45 - The Derrickman asked the I.P to repair a broken extension bar for the Mud Pit Dump Valve
- 1600 - The I.P (an experienced welder) prepared to fix the extension bar. The I.P held the bar onto the work bench with his left hand and used a 5inch grinder in his right hand to grind a bevel on the bar to prepare for welding.
- 16.10 -The grinder slipped off the bar contacting his left hand and cutting through the riggers glove and lacerating the skin over his left thumb
- 1615 - I.P proceeded immediately to the Medic for Treatment
- IP required transfer onshore for medical review and wound was sutured x4, IP was able to return to the rig and continued on with his normal duties.



Work Practise being undertaken at the time of the incident



How angle grinder was being used



Laceration sustained to Left thumb when grinder slipped

INITIAL FINDINGS

Immediate Causes

- The grinder slipped off the rod.
- Improper Use of hand Tools
Inadequate method of securing rod to be worked on – IP did not use vice or bench grinder (which were readily available).

Underlying Causes

- Poor decision making/ judgement
- Failure to conduct adequate task assessment.

INTERVIEW WITH IP

Q. How do you think this injury could have been prevented?

A. I should have been more focused.

Q. Would there be anything you would have done differently?

A. I would use the vice to hold the bar.

Q. Could you have used the Bench Grinder?

A. Yes definitely.

Q. Was there was any pressure on you to complete the job?

A. No, I didn't have any pressure.

Q. Does the Grinder require a side handle?

A. No, not with a 5inch grinder as it restricts your movement.

Q. Do you usually wear Welders gloves?

A. No, we normally wear riggers gloves for grinding.

Q. Would there be any better type of gloves that you could wear?

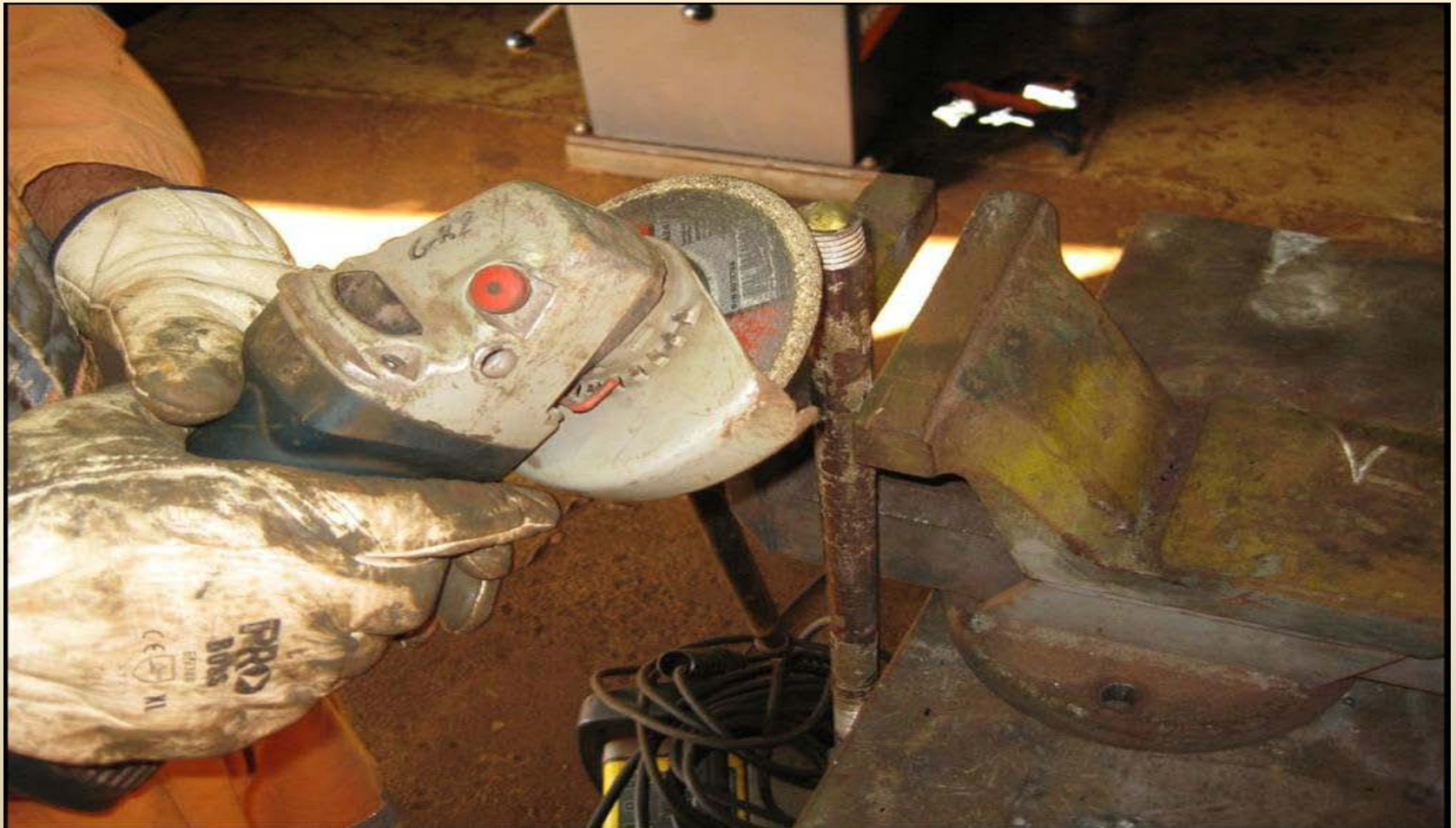
A, No, I don't think so.

Q. As you are coming to the end of your hitch was your mind on going home ?

A. No, I wasn't thinking about going home.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Incident reviewed with all crews at Safety Meetings
- Lessons Learned poster to be created & posted in public areas highlighting the importance of using the correct tool for the job
- Promote use of the mini/pocket toolbox talk cards at pre-tours & safety meetings.
- Investigate the availability on an 'on-site' trainer to visit the rig with focus on 'task assessment'
- Commence trial of alternative gloves E.G. 'Ironclad' and 'Star Safety Impact'
- Review IP's safety performance and implement any actions required via the company disciplinary process.
- IP to visit office for safety coaching session with shore management.



Alternative work practise that could have been used



Alternate work practise that could have been used

Lessons Learned

Synergi ref: 413162

MTC - NAN HAI VI: 06 -01-2010 @ 1610

Welder - Cut to Left Hand



Facts:

The I.P had his left hand holding a bar on the work bench and a 5inch grinder in his right hand. he was grinding a bevel onto a bar to prepare for welding. The grinder slipped off the bar and into his left hand cutting through the riggers glove sustaining a cut 20mm long and 10mm deep cut.

Causes: Direct Cause: Improper use of tools. (Vice or bench grinder should have been used.)

Indirect Cause: Unsafe / Inappropriate Act

Root Cause: Inadequate Planning of Task

Corrective measures

Discussed incident with IP and at all safety and power meetings. Discuss the importance of prejob planning. Poster of Lessons Learned to be displayed, promote use of Pocket Toolbox Talks. Investigate use of "on site" trainer.



Pictures

1. Grinding Bevel into Bar
2. Grinder Slipped into Hand
3. Injury Sustained.