



SAFETY ALERT

Potential Safety Issues with the use of Hook Knives when removing Pipe Coating

While in the process of removing coating a worker received a laceration from the hook knife he was using to break the adhesion between the pipe and the tape

Sequence of Events

1. The coating crew was required to remove tape from 6 joints that had been wrapped and lowered into the trench to conduct repairs.
2. The worker had removed the coating from two joints while two coworkers were working on the third joint, when he went over to assist them.
3. The worker told one of the coworkers to take a break so that he could show them how to do it more effectively.
4. The worker was holding the tape with his right hand at approximately 9 o'clock on the pipe and using the hook knife to break the adhesion with his left hand
5. The tape came away unexpectedly and the knife slipped. The knife cut through the worker's shirt and he received an eight cm wound to the inner aspect of his right forearm. First Aid Treatment was administered at the scene.
6. The worker was taken to hospital where he was treated and received 8 stitches.



Length and location of the laceration



Hook Knife

The logo features the letters 'JKT' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, set against a dark grey background with a stylized yellow and grey geometric pattern. To the right of this graphic, the words 'SAFETY ALERT' are written in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font.

JKT SAFETY ALERT

Immediate Causes

Haste/Improper speed: As a result of the rework and the slow progress the other crew were making the worker believes that he carried out the task with a degree of haste.

Inadequate guards/protective systems: The work process involved having to cut down on the tape to break the adhesion with the pipe which left the workers opposite arm exposed. The personal protective clothing was insufficient to stop the knife blade from cutting through the shirt sleeve.

Root Causes

Inadequate Work Standard: The JHA for Joint Coating - does not address the hazards associated with tape removal for conducting repairs and adhesion testing activities.

Consideration for Corrective Actions

1. Review the incident with all crew and highlight the importance of stepping back and assessing the task at hand and appropriate planning.
2. Revise the JHA for Coating to incorporate the management of the hazards associated with conducting repairs and adhesion testing, with consideration of risk controls to include:
 - The use of hook or alternate knives in the application;
 - Incorporating the use of additional PPE ie. Chainmail or leather gauntlets;
 - The potential of using two men to carry out the task; and
 - A review of the current technique.
3. Investigate the feasibility of using knives with spring-loaded retractable blades.