



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 10-22

Date: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

## *Cable Damage*

Earlier this month, a construction crew was assigned a work scope to install a HP Separator Access Platform and Ladder on an offshore facility.

The planned operation and the hot work permit issued was for welding square tubular members on the stair assembly. The planned work task was to prepare the square tubing for welding by removing the paint on the square tubing members.

The plan as discussed within the crew was to use a 4” grinder to remove the paint from the square tubing and weld the U-Channel into place. The crew consisted of three team members – a fitter, a fire watch, and a welder.

A pencil grinder with 2” flapper wheel was onsite and was not used. The pencil grinder would have been a more fit for purpose tool than the 4” grinder.

### ***Incident Factors***

- The permit was not updated when the crew performed a toolbox talk at the job site and found the cable tray tie wraps needed to be cut and the cable tray modified in order to prepare for welding the brace.
- The fitter decided to grind the paint off the beam with the grinder in the horizontal position and did not stop the job to consider an alternative method when the grinder would not fit vertically with adequate clearance between the cable and beam.
- In the process of grinding the paint off, the cable was contacted multiple times causing damage to the cable and tag before the crew decided to stop the job.

### ***Root Causes***

1. Inadequate pre job walkdown did not identify the cable as a hazard to be eliminated.
2. Complacency regarding the risks and controls as the cable was not identified as a hazard during the execution of the work.
3. Improper tool was used for the application. A fit for purpose pencil grinder was at the work site but not used.

### ***Recommended Actions***

1. When additional steps outside of the permit is required, stop the job, and involve the AA and upgrade the permit to include hazard recognition and ensuring additional controls are in place before proceeding with the task.
2. Before grinding next to a cable or other equipment that could be damaged, consider removing if possible, if not possible, protect by installing a barrier to prevent damage to adjacent cable or equipment.
3. When damage to cable or other equipment occurs, stop immediately and report it to your supervisor.

**SAFETY ALERT**





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