HSE
HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL

Abrasive Blasting Incident Leads to First-Aid

Recently, an employee was conducting abrasive blasting operations from hanging scaffolding on an offshore asset. After completion of work in the area, the employee hung the blasting hose over the side in order to move to another location of work.

Upon hanging the hose and nozzle over the side of the top guard rail, the nozzle struck the mid-section of the guard rail. Due to a build-up of product and sand, the blasting nozzle was engaged and became stuck in the open position. Due to the pressure the nozzle was lifted off of the rail and the employee was struck on the wrist receiving a minor abrasion. The incident was stopped when a coworker stepped on the hose and was able to shut the nozzle off.
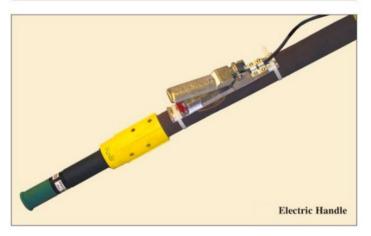
A learning team was assembled and the findings revealed several deficiencies during the course of work. The nozzle had not been properly maintained in order to reduce or completely prevent the self-engagement of the blasting nozzle. Furthermore, the employee was provided with proper PPE including blasting gloves, but the PPE was not worn properly.

While blasting nozzles and designs vary by manufacturer, the designs are usually simplistic and operate by a metallic trigger that is spring loaded. This allows for the engagement or disengagement of the nozzle.

With this said, there are several important factors to consider during operation including:

- Proper maintenance is critical to ensuring that the spring does not become encrusted in product or sand disabling it to function properly.

- Hose length and pressure may allow for the hose to continue the flow of product even after disengagement of the nozzle due to pressure bleed off.

- Lastly, as with all work, proper PPE must be worn properly. This is the last line of defense between the worker and an injury.

Pneumatic Handle

Electric Handle

Report all incidents immediately to the GIS Hotline
1-855-543-5163

Following your initial phone call, an incident report **must** be completed and e-mailed to:
incident@gisy.com

SAFETY ALERT