



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 30-23

Date: October 24th, 2023

## *Shop Weld Leads to Near Miss*

GIS recently experienced a near miss in one of its fabrication shops that could have resulted in serious injury.

During the month of October, a welder working in one of GIS's fabrication shops was attempting to complete a butt weld on two pieces of sixteen-inch diameter, schedule eighty pipe. To ease in this process, the welder elected to utilize a rollout wheel.

While welding, the welder attempted to roll the pipe section utilizing the rollout wheel and at which time the shaft of the rollout wheel snapped causing the pipe spool along with the associated chuck holding the spool piece in place to fall to the ground.



Fortunately, no one was injured during this incident. However, this incident was classified as a near miss given the potential of the serious injury(s) that could have resulted. The pipe in this incident weighed approximately one-hundred and thirty-six pounds per foot.

Welding bulkier or larger pipes can be easier when you have a steady rotation and this can be simply accomplished through the use of a rollout wheel. However, it is important to remember that most basic rollout wheels have a safety break factor of a 1:1 ratio, while higher end rollout wheels have a safety break factor of 2:1.

Regardless of the safety factor, we must always be mindful that rollout wheels are constructed from steel and can still suffer serious failures as with any other metals. Please always be mindful of the calculated weight of the pipe versus the tolerance of the brace or wheel being utilized.

Most of all, as with all operations, ensure that you maintain proper clearance from any load or material you are conducting work on or with.

**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](mailto:incident@gisy.com)

**SAFETY ALERT**