



H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 44-25

Date: October 30, 2025

Abrasive Blasting Injury

A Blaster/Painter reported that while conducting abrasive blasting of stairway handrails leading down from the hull column, he disengaged the trigger and changed elevation by placing one foot on the next step while leaving the other on the step below. When he re-engaged the trigger to resume blasting, he lost balance and inadvertently swung the blast nozzle out of position momentarily placing his body in the line of fire and striking himself with abrasive media on the right leg just above the kneecap resulting in a first aid incident.

Immediate Causes/Contributing Factors:

- Congested work area
- Routine activity performed without full attention
- Improper body positioning for task
- Inattention to footing
- PPE not fully adequate for the hazard (no blasting chaps)

Corrective and Preventative Actions:

- **Increase PPE Requirements** – blasting Chaps for additional lower body protection.
- **Reinforce Proper Body Positioning and Footing Awareness** – especially when working on stairs or elevated, congested, or uneven surfaces.
- **Emphasize in Pre-Job Safety Meetings** – the importance of maintaining control of the nozzle before and after engaging the trigger.
- **Highlight the need for added caution during elevation changes** – and repetitive, seemingly routine tasks.

Key Takeaways:

- **Stay Alert** and maintain **three points of contact** or solid footing when repositioning during tasks.
- **Always** ensure the **blast nozzle is controlled and pointed in a safe direction** when engaging the trigger.
- **Avoid Complacency**, even routine or simple tasks can cause injuries if attention lapses.
- **Evaluate PP adequacy regularly**; ensure equipment provides full protection for the task and conditions – Use **Safe to Start**
- **Reinforce hazard awareness and body positioning** during pre-job meetings and when resuming tasks after breaks.

Remember: Stay Focused on Task – even a momentary loss of focus can lead to an injury. Don't be a victim of complacency. **Complacency is the enemy of safety** – Every job, no matter how familiar, deserves your full attention from start to finish.



SAFETY ALERT