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Wrench Safety

A recent incident involving a wrench caused an employee to chip his tooth. The employee was using the wrench to tighten a flange when the wrench slipped and struck him in the mouth. Lack of caution and complacency are some of the main contributing factors for the occurrence of these types of incidents. This safety alert serves as a refresher for things we need to be aware of when working with wrenches in order to prevent incidents like this from occurring in the future.



HAZARDS INVOLVING WRENCH WORK:

- Wrench slips off of the nut / bolt
- Work piece may break and cause you to lose balance
- Wrench may break
- Using the wrong wrench for the job
- Using cheater bars to multiply force or double wrenching

Safe Practices for Working with Wrenches:

- Tool Inspection: Make sure the tool you are using is in good condition and the right tool to be using for the job.
- Whenever possible use your body to exert force, not just your arms and hands
- Perform a thorough hazard analysis for your workspace to ensure you have enough space to safely use your tools.
- Position your body in a way that will prevent you from losing balance and striking yourself if the wrench slips or something breaks suddenly.
- Avoid putting yourself in the line of fire of any hand tool.
- Ensure the jaw of the wrench is in full contact with the object you are working on before applying pressure.
- Ensure that the teeth of a pipe wrench are sharp and free of oil and debris to prevent slippage.
- Pull on the wrench using slow controlled motions rather than fast jerking motions.

Report all incidents immediately to the GIS

Hotline 1-855-543-5163.

SAFETY ALERT