ALERT NO.: SA 05-13 **09/01/13**

SAFETY ALERT

Employee pinches finger while cutting pipe

A GIS employee pinched one of his fingers while cutting a pipe. The employee was cutting a 16" copper nickel pipe, which had several jack stands under it. As the pipe rotated, it corkscrewed, causing the pipe to fall out of the stand, and pinch the employee's finger. This incident was classified as a first aid, but had the potential to be worse.

An investigation was conducted. The findings were:

Root Cause 1: Inadequate WPSEA

Facts:

1. WPSEA does not adequately cover specific job steps
2. No mention of beveling pipe or use of jack stands

Corrective Actions:

1. Always ensure all job steps are included in the WP/SEA.
2. Take time to identify all job steps for task during pre-job walk through
3. Mitigate all hazards associated with job steps

Root Cause 2: Employee not focused on task at hand

Facts:

1. Employee was beveling pipe, and did not notice pipe was rotating out of the jack stand
2. Employee knows pipe has a possibility of rolling off the stand
3. Job step not identified on WPSEA

Corrective Actions:

1. Identify all job steps before starting task
2. Secure pipe to stand or stop job to re-adjust pipe on stand as needed
3. Stay focused on task at hand

Root Cause 3: Failure to Recognize hazard

Facts:

1. No step for placing pipe in jack stand and beveling pipe on WPSEA. Therefore, hazards are unable to be mitigated.
2. Employee's stated pipe has possibility of rolling out of stand. This hazard not identified on WPSEA .

Corrective Actions:

1. Known hazards need to be addressed on WPSEA
2. All job steps need to be identified and addressed on WPSEA