



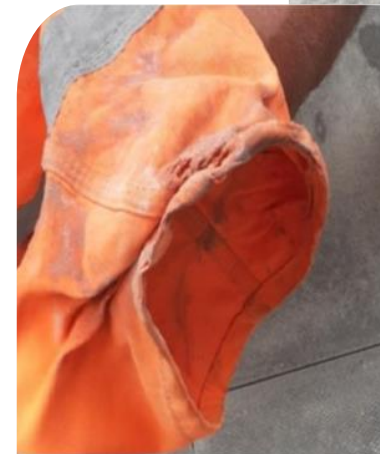
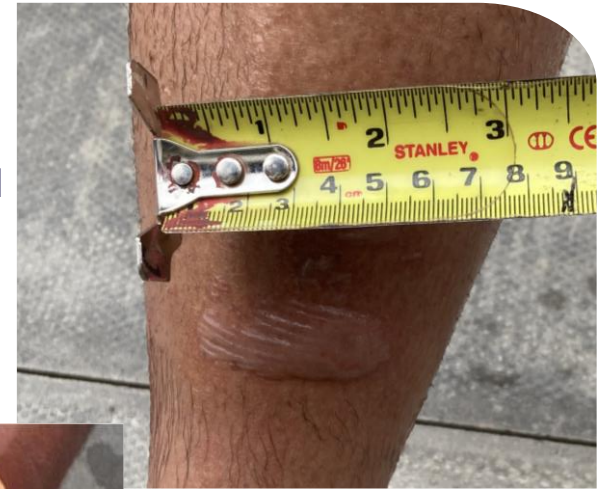
Skin Burns – Petrol Operated Disc Cutter

What happened?

A groundworker was cutting rebar during pile cap works using a petrol driven disc cutter which he had just re-fuelled. Drips of petrol had leaked from the machine onto the ground and the IP's trousers and the sparks from the cutting operation caused it to ignite. The groundworker suffered 2 burns to his leg, he was wearing suitable high visibility poly-cotton trousers that were appropriate for the task. It is believed that the petrol cap had not been replaced securely which allowed the petrol to leak from the machine.

Learning points:

- Always consider alternative means of undertaking work that removes the need for hot work. For example, in this case, could hydraulic rebar cutters have been used?
- Re-fuelling of equipment should only be undertaken at the designated fuel store, avoid taking portable fuel cans to the workface.
- Ensure that those undertaking hot works are appropriately dressed and not wearing clothing that could exacerbate the situation in the event of a fire - avoid nylon based clothing.
- Fire extinguishers should always be placed adjacent to hot works, which was the case in this incident – powder, foam or CO2 are suitable for fuel fires.
- Check first aid kits to ensure they have the correct equipment to treat burns, including burns to hands and faces.
- If clothing is on fire, STOP, DROP ROLL



Safe by choice



Safe by design



Safe lives



Safe places



Safe relationships

REFERENCE

SHE-ALT-2022_012

ISSUED

July 2022

DISPLAY UNTIL

July 2023