

Contractor Safety Requirements & Practices

Travis Englehart
Puget Sound Energy

Our Daily Mission



Bid Projects

- Prequalification requirements
 - Rate history: OSHA, EMR
 - Fatality history
 - Appropriate written program(s)
 - Site specific safety plan
- On-the-job oversight
 - Dedicated contractor safety professional
 - PSE oversight



Regular Service Providers

- Safety metrics included in service agreements
- Regular joint safety meetings



Final Incident Report

Facial Laceration

Date of Incident: April 4th 2015, 3:18 pm
Location: Encogen Generation Plant (ENC)
Task at Hand: GE Gas Turbine Overhaul
Crew Makeup: Ethos - 2 Millwrights
Extent of Loss: OSHA Recordable Injury (Sutures Required)



INCIDENT SUMMARY:

Two contract employees working for Ethos were conducting work on a turbine during a planned outage. As they were removing an upper plenum exhaust wall, one millwright drove a brass wedge on the right side of the split line. Another millwright started driving a similar wedge on the left side of the split line opposite of the employee. The work by the millwright on opposing sides caused a single brass wedge to eject and strike one of the employees between his safety glasses and hard hat on the left side of his face just above his eyebrow. The laceration was approximately 3/8 inch long requiring medical treatment including sutures to close the wound. The employee was released back to work without restrictions following the incident.



Fig 1. Brass Wedge



Fig 2. Required face shield (post-incident)

INCIDENT ROOT CAUSES:

The two millwrights did not communicate about the sequence of work resulting in one of the employees entering the firing line of the ejected brass wedge. Both employees had required PPE on at the time of the incident, unfortunately the wedge struck the employee in-between the safety glasses and the hard hat.

INCIDENT PREVENTION - RECOMMENDATIONS / BEST PRACTICES:

After discussion with PSE, Ethos decided that the employees would need to be in similar work positions throughout the remainder of the project. The decision was made to require a face shield when working with wedges to protect against a similar incident where employees may have to work in the firing line. Ethos safety also added the requirement that the wedges be secured (with rope) or guarded (with wood barriers) whenever feasible throughout the project.

This incident communication was prepared to be distributed directly to employees in the field. It is for educational purposes – not to admit or assign blame. Please distribute to applicable work groups.

Opportunities

- Contractor prescreening service (ISNetWorld, Browz, etc.)
- Standardizing on-the-job oversight
- On-site safety services

