

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

An untrained employee was assisting two other employees to cut saw bands on the shear cutter in the filing room.

When the newly cut end of the saw band got stuck in the shear cutter the untrained employee grabbed the saw band to adjust or un-jam it and caused it to spring up and strike the employee in the face. Intact saw bands form a continuous loop containing a great deal of potential energy. When cut the energy is released causing the band to curl up in the direction of the original loop.

The employee sustained a 3cm long, deep cut above the right eye that resulted in 3 inner stitches and 6 outer stitches.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Investigate the opportunity to install a hold down bar on infeed of saw band shear cutter.
- Investigate best practices in industry to develop a Safe Work Procedure for cutting saw bands that have been taken out of service.
- Develop an inventory of tasks that are performed within the filing room and ensure that individuals performing or assisting with these tasks are provided instruction on the hazards and safe work procedures.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Provide employees with training before they perform or assist with high-risk tasks. Untrained employees put themselves and other at risk of serious injuries.

