

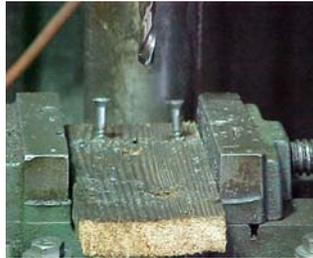
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Worth District  
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

## **Lessons Learned**

**ACCIDENT:** Operating a drill press

**Date:** 8 September 2000

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A tabletop drill press was being used to drill two holes into a 1/8-inch piece of steel plate. Worker had drilled approximately 50 steel plates before the accident occurred. The procedure was to seat three steel plates onto a wooden template, tighten them into place using a vice that is mounted to the drill press table. During the drilling process, lubricating oil is applied by the operator to the drill bit to keep the bit from becoming too hot and breaking, the oil also allows a smoother cut. The PPE used to perform the task was cotton/rubber gloves and a full-face eye shield.



**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

- There was no activity hazard analysis prepared
- Employee had not been trained on the proper use of the drill press
- Improper selection of PPE
- Machine Guarding

**RESULTS:** Worker suffered cuts between the joint and the thumbnail of the left hand that reached the bone. Approximately five days will be lost due to the consequences of the accident. Worker will endure restricted usage for an unspecified period of time.

## **LESSONS LEARNED:**

### **Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual**

- **Ensure a Activity Hazard Analysis is prepared and reviewed for each task**

01.A.06 A position hazard analysis shall be prepared and documented for each USACE position as warranted by the hazards associated with the position's tasks.

a. The designated authority, using the advice of the safety and occupational health office, shall determine the need for analysis for each position within his or her area of responsibility.

b. In developing the analysis for a particular position, supervisors should draw upon the knowledge and experience of employees in that position and the safety and occupational health office.

- **Employees shall be trained on the proper operation of assigned equipment.**

16.A.04 Machinery and mechanized equipment shall be operated only by designated qualified personnel.

a. Machinery or equipment shall not be operated in a manner that will endanger persons or property nor shall the safe operating speeds or loads be exceeded.

- **Employees should be trained on proper PPE selection and use.**

05.A.03 Employers shall ensure users of personal protective and safety equipment are trained to know the following: when PPE, and what PPE, is necessary; how properly to don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE; limitations of the PPE; and proper care, inspection, testing, maintenance, useful life, storage, and disposal of the PPE.

- **Ensure all equipment with moving parts has a guard to prevent accidental contact when in operation.**

13.A.03 Guarding.

a. Power tools designed to accommodate guards shall be equipped with such guards.

b. Reciprocating, rotating, and moving parts of equipment shall be guarded if exposed to contact by employees or otherwise create a hazard.