



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Engineering and Support Center,
Huntsville

Safety Office

Mishap Lessons Learned



Subject: Finger Laceration

Event: Worker was removing a valve from a shallow concrete pit. The worker was operating a reciprocating saw when the blade got stuck removing the bolts from the valve causing his finger to get pinched between the tool and the concrete wall. Employee was not wearing proper PPE (gloves) as required by the AHA. Employee was taken to a medical facility where he received stitches, prescription medication, and a tetanus shot.



Picture of a Reciprocating Saw



Direct Cause(s): The reciprocating saw blade got stuck on the bolt, causing the saw to buck and trap the employee's finger between the saw and the concrete wall.

Indirect Cause(s): Failure to follow the established procedures found in the AHA. The worker was not wearing proper PPE (gloves) as required by the AHA.

Lessons Learned: All applicable AHAs should be reviewed prior to all work. All workers should follow requirements spelled out in the AHAs. Changing conditions should be discussed prior to making any changes to work methods or setup. When working in tight spaces where pinching or unusual working positions are likely, evaluate the tools being used. Contact safety to help evaluate and mitigate risk

Recommendations: Ensure all employees have the correct tools and PPE to do the work. When changed conditions are encountered, pause the work, reevaluate the process and make any necessary procedure, equipment, and PPE changes prior to moving forward.