Debarker Caught-in Incident

Volume 2 Fast 100 Issue 43G-4

LESSONS LEARNED

Industrial workplaces such as garage workshops, metal fabrication and welding shops, and mechanical or heavy manufacturing facilities will have a variety of machines and tools. Workers responsible to operate, repair, clean, or just work near these machines and tools must be protected from potential hazards.

A 52-year-old millwright (the victim) was fatally injured when he was pinned between the feed rolls of a debarker as he was welding additional metal to the teeth on the feed rolls. The victim had locked out two electrical disconnects in the debarking room before beginning his work, but he had not locked out all electrical disconnects and had not shut off and locked out the air line to the machine. As the victim welded, he leaned forward and placed his head between the upper and lower feed rolls to reach areas that required more metal. The air pressure on the rolls automatically cycled and the feed rolls closed over the victim's head. **NIOSH FACE Report 2006-02**

Photo 2. This photo illustrates the south debarker room where locks had been placed on two electrical circuits by the victim

Photo 3. This photo illustrates the feed rolls of the south debarker where the victim had been welding metal onto the debarker teeth. [Photo courtesy of SCOSHA].

Photo 4. This photo illustrates the air line that supplied the debarker and is not properly locked out [courtesy of SCOSHA]. The insert illustrates an example of a ball valve lockout device that can be used to lock out the pneumatic airline. The manufacturers' directions for installing any lockout device must be followed.

- Training in proper lockout and tagout procedures is needed before performing repair, service or maintenance activities on machines or equipment.
- All potential hazardous energy must be identified before working on machines or equipment.
- Manufacturers requirements and recommendations should always be followed when working with machinery.

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