



POWER TOOL ACCIDENT

Application: This Safety Alert applies to all colleagues and contractors that use power tools on Arqiva sites.

Action Required: Yes

Reasons for action: On the 8 June a serious accident occurred involving a contractor using a battery-operated circular saw to cut timber for form work.

On completing a cut of a piece of wood, the operator went to place the saw on the ground. During this operation the rotating blade (coming to a stop from the cut) made contact with their thigh. The IP was taken to hospital. Ten stitches were required to seal the cut.

The accident is still being investigated however there a number of actions already identified.



THE SAW INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT



ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- Before operating any power tool, check the surrounding area for any hazards or potential issues. Clear the area of debris and other obstacles and ensure there is enough space to work safely
- Ensure the tool being used is suitable for the task. Using the wrong tool for a task can create mechanical and electrical stress that causes the equipment to become unsafe
- Keep your tools in good condition and well maintained. Check that they are fully functional (especially safety devices) before and between every use. Do not use any power tool that is defective
- Use the correct Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for the tool being used and dress appropriately for the task. The IP was wearing good quality/thick trousers which likely helped with reducing the severity of the injury
- Ensure you have suitable first aid provision for the power tools being used i.e. do you require a trauma first aid kit to be on site

**NOTHING THAT WE DO IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE CANNOT
TAKE THE TIME TO DO IT SAFELY**