



Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic

Safety Lessons Learned Accident Abstract

Accident Type: Fire/Flammable Liquid
Injury: Temporary Disability
Damage: Burns to Shoulder and Legs
Type of Work: Service, Grounds Maintenance
Equipment: Weed trimmer

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

Employee filled his weed trimmer with gas and did not place the filler cap back onto the weed trimmer. Gas spilled out as he placed the weed trimmer over his shoulder, side and legs. Supervisor advised worker gas was spilling out, employee continued on and claims while he was taking items out of his pocket when his lighter ignited and flames broke out on his pants leg. Worker sustained 7 days lost time and 7 days of restricted duty

DIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ Improper use of equipment.
- ◆ Failure to follow directions of EM-385

INDIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ No preparatory meeting for this activity.
- ◆ No AHA for phase of work
- ◆ Failure of supervisor to ensure EM-385 safety requirements was met.

ROOT CAUSE:

- ◆ Ineffective control and implementation of EM-385-1-1 paragraph 09.B.05. Workers shall guard carefully against any part of their clothing becoming contaminated with flammable or combustible fluids. They shall not be allowed to continue work if their clothing becomes contaminated, and they must remove or wet down the clothing as soon as possible

LESSONS LEARNED:

- ◆ EM-385 safety requirements must be followed at all times
 - ◆ Superintendent/ SSHO must pay attention to possible problems and take immediate action to prevent incidents.
 - ◆ Required weekly safety meetings must insure topics covered are relevant to the on going work
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