

Toolbox Talks

Weekly Tailgate Topic

12-4

DISCUSS WITH CREWS ON

[INSERT DATE]

CUT-OFF SAW SAFE WORK PRACTICES

Only qualified personnel are allowed to operate a cut-off saw. When using this piece of equipment, it is important to remember the following dos and don'ts.

DOS

- 1. Use safety footwear, snug fitting clothing, safety glasses, hearing protection and a hardhat while operating the cut-off saw. A respirator with HEPA filters must be worn while cutting concrete or asphalt.
- 2. Dust concentrations must be maintained below the established exposure limits. Keep water continuously running on the cutting wheel while cutting concrete or asphalt.
- 3. Only use wet/dry cut-off saw blades while cutting concrete or asphalt.
- 4. Operate the cut-off saw in well-ventilated areas.
- 5. Inspect the cut-off saw before start-up, CLEAN THE AIR FILTER.
- 6. Inspect the cutting wheel for warping and damage before using the cut-off saw.
- 7. Run the saw at full throttle while cutting.
- 8. Use the bottom of the wheel for cutting.
- 9. Test newly mounted wheels to run at normal operating speed for approx. 30 seconds with guard in place before beginning to use.
- 10. Hold the cut-off saw with 2 hands while it is running
- 11.Use caution when handling fuel. Do not fuel cut-off saw while it is running and do not fuel up saw near an ignition source.
- 12. Keep all parts of your body away from the cutting wheel while it is running.
- 13. Run the cut-off saw for 30 seconds at normal operating speeds after the cut is finished to allow all of the water to be thrown off the cutting wheel.
- 14. Keep good balance and footing; use both hands and keep a firm grip on the handles.
- 15. Keep work piece at a comfortable distance.
- 16. Run saw at full throttle.
- 17.Be careful when re-entering a cut.
- 18.Be alert to ensure that the cut-off saw blade does not become pinched in the cut.

DON'TS

- 1. Don't allow bystanders to stand in the work area while using a cut-off saw.
- 2. Don't cut in the vicinity of anything that is flammable. Most cutting produces sparks.
- 3. Don't operate the cut-off saw without the wheel guard in place.
- 4. Don't exceed the maximum operating speed marked on the wheel.
- 5. Don't cock, jam or wedge the wheel into a cut.
- 6. Don't grind on the side of the wheel.
- 7. Don't operate a cut-off saw that is damaged, improperly adjusted or improperly assembled.

- 8. Don't use water on a dry cutting wheel, or sprinkle the blade periodically with water. (Sudden temperature changes will weaken the wheel)
- 9. Never cut with the top or front of the blade
- 10. Never cut above shoulder height.
- 11. Make sure you can contact people in the event of an incident.

CREWMEMBER SAFETY TOPIC