



مؤسسة الموانئ والجمارك والمنطقة الحرة
Ports, Customs & Free Zone Corporation



مجمع التقنية
Techno Park



مركز دبي للمعادن والسلع
DUBAI METALS & COMMODITIES
CENTRE



SAFETY ALERT

A worker sustained a serious injury following an accident where old oil drums were being cut up using oxy/acetylene cutting equipment. An angle bar holding 3 drums together was being cut causing one of the drums to heat up. This increased the pressure in the drum causing the lid to blow off with considerable force. The lid struck the worker below the knee and caused a fracture to the lower leg.

Investigation identified that although the oil drums were old and rusty they were still airtight. The caps had not been removed to allow expanding air to escape.

This accident had the potential to be a lot more serious. All contractors are required to take note of the following points in order to prevent a recurrence of this type of accident.

The following must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *The risks associated with burning and cutting operations using gas cutting equipment must be fully assessed.*
- ➔ *All hot works of this nature must be carried out under a hot work permit procedure.*
- ➔ *Extreme care must be taken when cutting drums as they could contain explosive residues from previous use. The risk assessment must identify the control measures to be in place.*
- ➔ *Where there is a risk of an explosive atmosphere in the drum purging with Nitrogen must be carried out prior to cutting.*
- ➔ *Caps should be removed from the drums before they are cut to allow expanding air to escape.*
- ➔ *Workers should be trained in the use of gas cutting equipment and should be aware of the hazards associated with the work..*

For further information contact:

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