



CONN-OSHA QUARTERLY

November 2019

DEADLY DANGER : CUT-OFF SAWS

By Ellen Burgum, Occupational Safety and Health Officer

You may have experienced it yourself or know someone who did... and were lucky enough not to be seriously hurt or killed by it....powered saw kick back. This article is particular to powered cut-off saws although kickback is common with any powered saw. All can be deadly.

To reduce the risk of a kickback injury, you should avoid cutting with the upper quadrant of the wheel whenever possible. Be especially cautious for a pinching or binding of the wheel in this area, which can cause severe reactive forces in a rotational kickback motion. Avoid any possibility of wedging action. The severed part of your work piece **MUST FALL FREE AND NOT WEDGE, BIND OR CLAMP THE ABRASIVE CUTTING WHEEL**. Be alert to potential movement of the work piece or anything else that could cause the cut to close and pinch, bind or clamp the wheel. In order to reduce the risk of pinching, binding or clamping, support the work piece in such a way that the cut remains open during the cutting process and when the cut is finished. If you cannot properly support the work piece, do not use a cutting-off machine to make the cut; select another tool or method.

Where there is a possibility of a pinch, you should leave an uncut portion of the work piece that prevents the cut from closing and pinching the wheel, which can later be broken manually using a hammer or other appropriate tool. If you are making a complete cut, make sure that the final, separating cut is made at the top of the work piece using the bottom of the wheel, with the guard of the machine pushed fully forward to

the forward stop position. In this way, if there is any residual pinching, it will be at the bottom of the wheel, where it may result in pull-away, but not in kickback. Be alert for pull-away. Objects to be cut must always be properly supported and must be secured against pinching, rolling away, slipping or vibration.

Always hold the cut-off machine firmly with two hands when the engine is running. Place your LEFT hand on the front handle and your RIGHT hand on the rear handle and throttle trigger. *Regardless of whether you are right or left handed!! Otherwise you risk kickback or loss of control.* When cutting be alert for hidden hazards such as rebar, cable wire etc. The wheel guard on your cut-off machine is adjustable. It is extremely important that the wheel guard is in place and adjusted properly for the type of work and your work position. Always position yourself in a way that your stance is to the side of the saw so if a kickback occurs it isn't aimed at your body!

The importance of water use through an integrated system built into the saw cannot be stressed enough. It provides several things to keep you safe. It cools the blade and acts as a lubricant. It controls the silica dust produced when cutting masonry. The recently implemented OSHA silica standards for Construction 29 CFR 1926.1153 and General Industry 29 CFR 1910.1053 require employers to take steps to protect workers from exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

Nothing replaces the importance of adequate employee training. The operator's manual is an

excellent resource for product safety information and proper use techniques. If the operator's manual is long gone, check the manufacturer's website and print it out! Of course proper personal protective equipment is another must for use with a cut-off saw; again the operator's manual is where you will find information.

Any powered tool can cause harm if misused but these types of saws are deadly. Please adhere to manufacturer's recommendations and keep alert when this saw is in your hands. Another approach would be to consider buying a safer cut-off saw. **CONN-OSHA does not make product recommendations and this link is provided only for your convenience.**

[TS 440 STIHL Cutquik®](#)

THE FIRST CUT-OFF MACHINE IN THE WORLD EQUIPPED WITH THE TECHNOLOGY CAPABLE OF STOPPING THE ROTATION OF THE CUTTING WHEEL IN FRACTIONS OF A SECOND IF KICKBACK OCCURS

The extended guard adjustment range of the TS400 allows greater access in challenging cuts such as the bottom portions of walls, cutting in corners and cutting the underside of in-ground pipes.



CONN-OSHA Breakfast Roundtable, 200 Meetings and Going Strong

The first CONN-OSHA Breakfast Roundtable Discussion Group Meeting was held February 2003. There has been a 3rd Tuesday of the month meeting at 8:15 am every month since the first meeting with 11 attendees. The meeting now averages over 30 attendees, and each month we welcome people who are attending for the first time. The intent of these free 90-minute workshops is to discuss safety and health issues in a supportive and informal environment.

There have been 19 off-site meetings, most include a tour of the host facility. The host usually provides the technical presentation which is related to their facility operations. The Connecticut Television Network, CT-N has filmed the meeting occasionally, and WFSB Channel 3 has also attended to film the event.

John Able, Occupational Safety Training Specialist, coordinates the meeting, seeking out presenters that are specialists in a subject valuable to employers. Occupational safety & health issues are the focus, but other subjects of interest to Human Resource personnel, Safety Committee members, Risk Managers and others looking for a local, no-cost educational session are offered.

The CONN-OSHA Quarterly Newsletter email distribution

list was combined with the Breakfast Roundtable distribution list in 2016, and now over 3,000 people receive the Breakfast Notice each month. Also in 2016, the Breakfast Roundtable Web site began an Archive page, so those that could not attend an event can access the training materials distributed during that presentation.

Since 2003, 17 years, 6,500 people have attended this meeting. One Hundred twenty five different people have presented at this meeting, providing valuable information to employees, employers, and others with a thirst for knowledge.

The roundtable meetings are held from 8:15 am to 9:45 on the third Tuesday on the month at the Connecticut Department of Labor, 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109, in Conference Room A. Pre-registration is required.

The first week of each month, people on the e-mail distribution list receive a notice which indicates the subject of that month's meeting. In addition, this notice includes a Draft Agenda that lists non CONN-OSHA sponsored Low/No Cost Training/Educational Opportunities listed around the region that are open to the public. To be placed on the e-mail distribution list, contact John Able at john.able@ct.gov

Connecticut Department of Labor - OSHA
38 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

To receive the *Quarterly* electronically or to make suggestions on how to improve this newsletter, contact Grayson.gregory@ct.gov In the subject line type "subscribe" and provide your e-mail address. You may also reach us by phone at (860) 263-6900 or visit us at: www.ConnOsha.com

Retiring after A Well Spent 27 Years: Jim Pierce Reflects on His Department of Labor Career

Jim Pierce doesn't hesitate for a second when asked what he has enjoyed most about working in the Connecticut Department of Labor's Division of Occupational Safety and Health for the past 27 years.

"I like the fact that we make a difference in people's lives," explains the Occupational Safety and Health Manager, who left state service on October 1. "I have felt very fortunate all these years to be able to play a role in helping to protect people, to advocate for and ensure their health and safety."

A Bristol resident now and originally from Meriden, Pierce, who first enrolled at the University of Connecticut with the intention of pursuing a degree and starting a career as a pharmacist, switched instead following his junior year to Eastern Connecticut State University. There, he went on to earn his Bachelors of science degree in biology and chemistry. Following graduation, he found a job at Fafner, a New Britain-based company that produced ball bearings. He spent 13 year working in the private sector, and was at the time enrolled at Waterbury State Technical College where he earned a certificate in safety and health. One day, he met and began talking with Milo Ozkan, an Occupational Health Supervisor at the Connecticut Department of Labor.

Milo asked me: "How would you like to come work with me?" Pierce remembers.

CONN-OSHA, as it is commonly called, was at the time known as the Factory Inspection Unit and was on the second floor of Central Office. It is now in the DOL Annex, located at 38 Wolcott Hill Road.

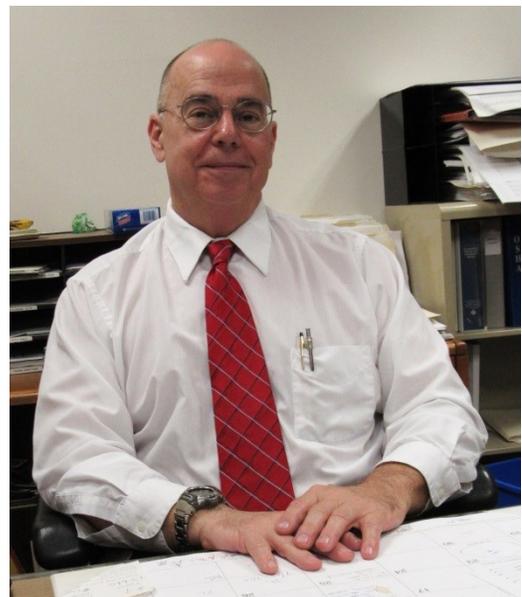
"So much has changed in the health and safety field since then," he said. "There is such a greater awareness of protecting workers on-the-job nowadays and our mission of getting the word out through education and enforcement is even more vital."

Pierce has been very fortunate, he notes, to have worked with so many people who have helped make CONN-OSHA what it is today. He lists, for instance, former colleagues David Schibi, Ken Knauss, Eileen Muirhead, Nick Palermo, Don Heckler and Rich Palo. He also

singles out Ken Tucker, CONN-OSHA's present director.

The father of seven children, Jim, Mary, Katie, Becky, John, Kelly and Maureen, Jim Pierce won't be just kicking back when he leaves DOL. He has accepted a new full-time job as a senior risk control specialist in Wallingford. He started in October.

"I had intended to work (at DOL) longer but got an offer I couldn't refuse," he said. "I'll always thankful that I had this job. This always has been, and still is a great place to work."



Fatality & Casualty Reporting

State & Town: CONN-OSHA (860) 263-6946 (local) or 1-866-241-4060 (toll-free)
Private Employers: Report to Federal OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA(6742)

Hazard Corner...

On June 10, 2019 a Town of Ellington Public Works employee came very close to losing his life. While cutting a riser for a catch basin the concrete cut-off saw he was using violently kicked back and caused a severe laceration to his neck. If not for the quick action of his co-workers, the employee would have bled to death in a few minutes. One co-worker, a veteran army medic, used his experience in the Iraq War to save the employee's life. Paramedics arrived and transported the employee to a Life Star helicopter waiting nearby. The employee went through two surgeries, 10 blood transfusions and lost two liters of blood. He has since had more surgeries and is still out of work. But, he is alive.



CONN-OSHA~ Training Update...

Safe Driving – Get There Safely EVERY Time December 12, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to noon Work-related vehicle crashes are the leading cause of occupational fatalities according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor. The goal of this session is to increase awareness of the need for, and the benefits of safe driving.

OSHA Recordkeeping December 19, 2019 and January 16, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to noon This interactive session will make you knowledgeable of the rules and ensure confidence that you have properly recorded and reported occupational injuries and illnesses, including how to fill out the OSHA 300 Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses accurately and correctly.

Powered Industrial Trucks January 7 and April 23, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to noon This two hour workshop includes the basic requirements of the OSHA 29 CFR 1910.178 Powered Industrial Truck Standard which affects both General Industry and Construction material handling operations.

Workplace Violence February 6, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to noon This workshop is designed to make you more aware of some of the issues related to the workplace and to provide tools to help manage, defuse and prevent it.

Breakfast Roundtable This discussion group meets the third Tuesday of every month from 8:15 am to 9:45 am. Pre-registration is required. Visit our web page for more information: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/osha/Breakfast/index.htm> To be placed on the e-mail distribution list, contact John Able at John.able@ct.gov

Classes are free and are held at 200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT in Conference Room A/B (unless otherwise noted). To register, contact Catherine Zinsser at catherine.zinsser@ct.gov Pre-registration is required. A Photo I.D. is also required to allow entry into a public building. For more training information, visit the CONN-OSHA web site www.ConnOsha.com