

Learning Alert 25-48 Serious Leg Injury Using a Stihl Saw

The following Safety Alert contains content from an external source which is relevant to MWH Treatment Operations

What Happened?

An employee of a subcontractor working on behalf of United Utilities suffered a serious leg injury when a Stihl Saw that he was using to cut a polyethylene pipe became snagged and jumped suddenly causing the cutting disc to come into contact with his leg. Fortunately, the cutting disk missed the bone and arteries and only resulted in a deep gash requiring stitches.



Whilst the investigation is ongoing, early findings have confirmed that the risk assessment for the works did not specify

what type of cutting tool should be used for cutting polyethylene pipes. Stihl Saws should not be used for cutting polyethylene pipes. Only approved pipe cutting tools such as Keel cutters (like the one pictured above) should be used.

Managers:

- Review risk assessments and ensure that they specify what tools are used for each task.
- Ensure that Stihl Saws are not used to cut polyethylene pipes.
- Ensure that the pipe cutting tools, such as Keel Cutters are used for cutting polyethylene pipes.

Teams:

- Review risk assessments and raise concerns where there is insufficient detail.
- If you see a colleague or contractor using an incorrect tool, challenge them and stop work.

