

Unsafe practices in the cartoon.

- Person operating drill. Hair should be tied back as it could get caught in the machine. Work to be drilled should be held in a machine vice or with clamps, not with the hands. Eye protection should be worn, also long trousers or a leather apron. Man leaning on bench should be asked to move away as he has no eye protection, his arm is likely to be injured, and he is a distraction to the operator.
- Man using portable electric drill. Should find the chuck key not use a screwdriver to undo the chuck. He is likely to slip and cut his hand. The chuck will be damaged by using the wrong tool.
- Man using hacksaw. Inappropriately dressed for the workshop. Should have leather boots, long trousers and shirt or an apron. Also eye protection should be worn. He should hold the piece of tube in the engineers vice to make the job much easier and also to avoid cutting the bench.
- Tools on bench should be put away after use, they are cluttering up the bench space and could be lost and broken.

An occupational health and safety committee in this workplace could minimise the chance of accidents quite easily. A policy should be introduced that all employees must wear long trousers, long shirt, a leather apron, leather boots and eye protection. People with long hair should have to tie it back or wear a hair net. This simple method of appropriate workplace clothing would dramatically reduce the risk of injuries.

Once this first policy is introduced other simple things such as signs should be placed around the workshop to remind workers of dangers. There should be a sign on the drill press saying eye and hearing protection must be worn. And a line drawn on the ground <sup>around the drill</sup> in which only the operator can go inside while the drill is running, this will limit distractions.

The committee might raise funds for a better storage area for hand tools like the hacksaw and files that are laying on the bench. Training days for employees could be introduced showing better work practices, such as holding your work in a vice when hacksawing. They



could introduce a fifteen minute time period before the end of the days work in which employees pack up tools and sweep the floors so that they will not be tripping over loose bits of steel on the ground. The committee should then monitor how the employees are responding to the new policies and see if workplace accidents are down.

If nothing is done about this unsafe working environment then there will be consequences for both employers and employees. Employers may face fines or possible imprisonment for breaching government legislation that requires employers to provide a safe working environment for their employees. Also the employees business will suffer as his employees will be taking time off injured and so the business become less productive.

Employees may be severely injured in a workplace environment like this one. A workplace injury could severely disable an employee and put the rest of his working life in jeopardy. Working

in an environment like this will not be helpful for the employees mentally. They will not work as hard because they will be always worrying about injury as they see their fellow workmates always hurt.

The unsafe practices in this workplace should be corrected before injuries start occurring and business starts to suffer.