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| **Department:** | **Engineering** | **Area:** | **Construction** |  |
| **Subject:** | **Snap Cutter Safe Work Procedure** | | |

**SNAP CUTTER**

**Purpose:**

The snap cutter is a hand held device which uses mechanical or hydraulic force to drive a chain of cutting wheels through the walls of a pipe. It is an approved method for cutting asbestos cement pipe so extra precautions must be followed in using and maintaining this tool. If not familiar with the use of this tool, obtain practical instruction from qualified personnel.

**Hazards:**

* Exposure to asbestos fibres can lead to serious illness and even death.

**PPE Required:**

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| * Hard hat | * Eye & ear protection | * Safety boots |
| * Gloves | * Hi-vis vest or coveralls |  |

**Pre Set-Up:**

* Proper training and use of safe work procedure for asbestos must be followed.
* When cutting asbestos cement pipe, follow all steps in Asbestos materials and disposal procedures.
* Inspect the cutter and pump for any signs of damage or excessive wear. Report and remedy any problems identified.
* Prepare a safe, clear work area in and around the pipe to be cut.

**Procedure**:

* Wrap the cutting chain around pipe.
* Complete a “loop” with the chain by passing it through the opening in the handle.
* Snug the chain firmly against the pipe and lock it into place using the tightest possible link.
* Apply a constant stream of water while cutting asbestos cement pipe.
* Turn the crank or ratchet on a mechanical cutter or pump the handle on a hydraulic cutter until the wheels shear the pipe.
* Reverse the crank/ratchet or release the pump and unlock the chain from around the pipe.
* Maintain a steady stream of water until all exposed clothing, tools and materials have been thoroughly rinsed to remove asbestos fibres.
* Follow asbestos procedures to safely handle contaminated materials.

**Post Procedure/Take Down:**

* Do not remove the cutter from asbestos work zone until it has been thoroughly rinsed and clean.
* Spray the chain with lubricant. Store tool in a clean dry area.

Cleaning and maintenance of this tool is critical when using on asbestos containing materials. Do not expose your co-workers to hazards by not following procedures. These procedures are in place to prevent unsafe conditions for you and your fellow employees.

**Summary:**

* Follow all procedures relating to asbestos if material contains asbestos
* Identify the pipe to be cut. Keep the tool clean and lubricated

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| **Revised: 2010-Apr-27** | **Approved by: Dave Benere** |