

# Safety and health alert

## 44/99 M.I.G. Welding wire injures eye

### Incident

An employee in Malaga recently suffered superficial injuries to his eye when loading a coil of wire onto a M.I.G. welding machine. Although a full recovery is expected, the employee is considered fortunate not to have sustained a more serious injury.

The incident occurred when the end of the wire sprang free from the coil as the employee prepared to feed the loose end through the machine. The released tension caused the wire end to strike the employee's face and scratch the surface of the eye. If the wire end had released at a slightly different angle the full force of the impact could have been inflicted upon the eye with serious consequences.

### Factors

1. A lack of awareness of the tension existing within wire coils and the potential for injury when restraining wires are cut from such coils in preparation for installation.
2. Employee not instructed as to correct method of installation of wire coils to welding machine.
3. Employee not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

### Recommendations

Employees should:-

1. be made aware of the potential for wire ends to fly free when tension is released from coils.
2. receive appropriate instruction for loading consumables into plant.
3. be provided with, and wear, appropriate personal protective equipment for the hazards they are likely to encounter in the workplace.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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