



## **SAFETY ALERT**

A worker was seriously injured when he tried to replace the hose that was being used for water cooling on a generator. As he tried to put the hose back in the correct position he put his fingers through the mesh to get a better hold.

As his fingers went through the mesh the generator fan struck his fingers causing instant amputation of three fingers.

He received first aid on site then was evacuated to the hospital.

Investigation by EHS identified that the gauge of the mesh fitted to the generator was too large allowing the worker access to dangerous moving parts. The worker had also failed to stop the generator in order to carry out the necessary reconnection.

The accident could easily have been prevented if the following points were adhered to:-

- ➔ *All machinery should be switched off and allowed to come to a complete rest before any maintenance or repair work is carried out.*
- ➔ *Guards are only effective if they prevent access to the hazard. In this case the mesh on the guard was too large allowing access to the moving parts.*
- ➔ *Contractors should risk assess their items of plant and machinery to ensure safety through installation, use and maintenance/repair.*
- ➔ *Workers must be regularly briefed on the hazards of their work and given clear instruction on the procedures to follow to if they have to work with plant or machinery..*
- ➔ *Warning signs should be displayed warning the work force of specific hazards. Signs should be pictorial with any writing provided in languages common to the workers.*

**For further information contact:**

**Ports, Customs & Free Zone Corporation**

**EHSS Division: Tel. No. (04) 8040318**

**Safety Alert 024 240806**