



HSE AWARENESS

Date: February 1, 2019
Subject: Recognizing Unsafe Use of Cotter Pins

Cotter pins offer a simple and effective means of temporary securement when used correctly. Cotter Pins are used in equipment that routinely needs to be dis-assembled for inspection, re-sizing or removal from temporary installation.

At Grey Wolf in the last few years, we have had several incidents related to cotter pin failures. These include 2 HIPO drops incidents where hooks were dropped from the monkey board area. A safety clamp die falling down the hole and another safety clamp die popping-out and hitting a driller in the face resulting in a deep cut to his cheek.

During Hazard hunts, it has been noted that undersized cotter were installed in equipment. Another observation has been mis-match of metals where aluminum cotter pins were installed in steel equipment.

Aluminum cotter pins should never be re-used. Once aluminum has been bent then straightened again, it is much weaker and prone to cracking. This could lead to a DROPS incident or something being dropped down the hole.



Cotter pins must be bent on ends. If the pin on the left got bumped, it could straighten the bent end and the pin could fall out. This could then lead to a DROPS incident from falling parts. Also a puncture hazard to hands and fingers!

