



Association of  
Diving Contractors  
International



## ADCI INDUSTRY UPDATES

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TO: ADCI General Membership and Industry Stakeholders

The following items of information are provided to bring your attention to recent industry developments, initiatives, or safety notices. If you do not wish to receive future Industry Updates, please use the unsubscribe option, located at the bottom of this update.

### ALERT FOR THE USE OF UNDERWATER GRINDERS AND DRILLS

ADCI is cautioning the use of both underwater grinders and drills when penetrating surfaces where potentially hazardous trapped gases could ignite.

Historically considered a cold cutting tool by many in the industry, [underwater grinders have the potential to produce sparks within the gas space being penetrated, thus the potential for ignition of any flammable material or gas that might be present.](#)

[Underwater drills can potentially produce high surface temperatures to the metal when fully engaged, which may lead to the ignition of any flammable material or gas contained in the space being penetrated.](#) Slowing down the speed of the drill and periodically backing out the drill bit, during the course of penetration, will allow for cooler surface temperatures, (Machinists call this procedure "Pecking"). Remote operation of the drill should also be considered to mitigate risk.

**A proper JSA should be conducted before using any underwater tool. ADCI encourages all contractors to review their cold cutting and hot work procedures, to ensure that they are in line with current best industry safe practices.**

*This Safety Flash was sent to further the communication of current best industry safe practices and lessons learned. Safety is the primary concern of the ADCI. Remember: a real time Job Safety Analysis is important, but nothing can replace good common sense.*

*Sincerely,*

*Phil Newsum*

*Association of Diving Contractors International*