



## *Avoiding Injury when Working with Unistrut*

### Lesson Learned

**The incident:** A crew member was tightening a bolt using a 1/2" drive ratchet and a deep socket. Holding the piece of Unistrut in one hand and the tool in the other as shown.



**Why the incident occurred:** The socket slipped when he was tightening the bolt causing his right finger to hit the Unistrut. The piece of Unistrut was not deburred after being cut. **The result:** Three hours in the clinic and eight stitches.

**Preventive measures:** Sharp edges can be common when cutting Unistrut. A file works well to remove sharp edges after cutting. Remove all sharp edges before handling and wear cut resistant gloves. This picture shows an ideal situation. Not all of these tools are available for every task, however just the use of a shallow socket or a ratchet wrench might have prevented this injury!

When pre-tasking a job activity, take the time to think about what tools you need and how the tools will be used. Discuss this with the crew. It is understood that this process takes time from your day but that 10 minutes spent on safety still doesn't add up to

- 3 hours @ a Journeyman's rate
- 3 hours @ a General Foreman's rate
- Over \$1000 for medical treatment (plus pain and suffering)

**You do the math!!**

# SafeALERT



ORCIG 2018 SafeAlert Series