

SAFETY ALERT

UK SA06/2020 – 11.08.20

Display Until
25.09.20



METAL SHARD EMBEDDED IN EMPLOYEE'S HAND

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

A bearing failed on a Gravity Take Up Unit (GTU). The processing plant was shut down and a review of tools and equipment required to replace the bearing was undertaken and the mobile access platform put into position. The GTU was isolated in line with the Safe System of Work. The injured person (IP) removed the outer casing from the bearing, but the inner bearing sleeve was still rusted to the drum shaft. In order to release the sleeve from the drum shaft, the IP cut a slot the length of the sleeve with a cutting disc and then drove a wedge in the cut to expand the sleeve and release it from the shaft; however, the sleeve did not release so the IP removed his gloves to get a good purchase on the hammer. The IP struck the sleeve with the hammer and on the second blow, a shard ejected and entered into his left hand thumb, just above the finger nail, and embedded up to the knuckle. The metal shard had to be surgically removed and the wound stitched.

KEY FINDINGS

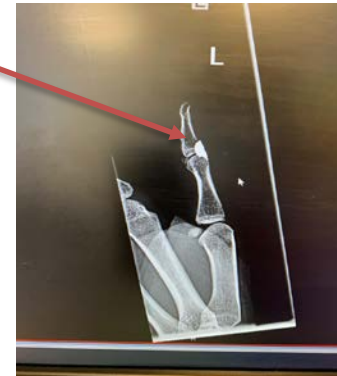
- The IP had the correct PPE, including ventilated face shield and leather gauntlets.
- Isolation procedures were followed included MIC Lock.
- No Worksafe was completed for this activity.
- There was no specific Risk Assessment for this task.
- The IP had received appropriate training including City and Guilds in Welding, Fabrication and Engineering.

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Are robust lubrication systems in place? This may prevent premature bearing failure.
- Are Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) in place for all routine maintenance activities? Do they consider the most suitable method of work?
- Do Risk Assessments consider the suitability and compatibility of tools, equipment and PPE? In this case providing a hammer with a better grip and a plastic or copper face.
- Do RAMS stipulate the correct procedure? It is likely the sleeve would have released if it had been cut on two opposite sides.
- Have employees received STOP-THINK-ACT training helping them to identify hazards, and keep out of the line of fire?
- Is everyone encouraged to STEP IN if they see any unsafe acts on our sites?



Metal fragment



Look after yourself and each other



Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

Personal Protective Equipment



Always wear the correct PPE.

Tools and Equipment



Use the right, well maintained, tools/equipment for the job. Never make do.

Safe Systems



Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.

Incident/Hazard alerts



Report all incidents/hazards immediately.

