//CEMEX

EMPLOYEE FRACTURES FINGER

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

A contractor was engaged to remove and repair a broken skip motor and brake on a Concrete Plant. The task involved lowering the motor to an interim level before lowering it to the ground. An employee was observing the task from the mixer level. As the motor was lowered during the first stage, it started to turn, the employee put out his hand to steady it and, in doing so, his hand was caught between the motor and a fixed object. On removing his glove, our employee discovered a cut to his finger which required hospital treatment; it was later found that the employee had also fractured his finger.

KEY FINDINGS

- The employee was not meant to be part of the task and was only observing.
- All required controls were in place including an induction, Worksafe assessment and Permit to Work.
- The employee was wearing the correct personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves.
- Consideration had been made to lower the motor through use of a mobile elevated work platform (MEWP) but the method used was thought to be the better option.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

Effective planning and coordination of the task should have ensured an exclusion zone was in place limiting access to the area.

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Task Assessment – Are alternative work methods considered fully to minimise risks?
- Safety Zones – Are steps taken to isolate areas where lifting / lowering operations are taking place?
- Authorised Personnel – Is it clear who should be involved in a task and do they know their role?
- Line of Fire – Do personnel fully understand the concept of keeping out of the "Line of Fire" and know not to put themselves at risk?

Look after yourself and each other
Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

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

Incident/Hazard alerts
Report all incidents/hazards immediately.

STOP & THINK