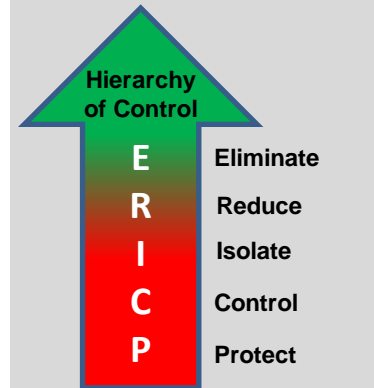


SAFETY ALERT

HAND INJURY – FRACTURED FINGER



DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

A telehandler operator was unloading a micro-silica delivery and transporting the 1.2 tonne bulk bags into the refurbishment base at around 14:45. After 8 bags had been successfully off loaded and stored, the 9th bag fell off the pallet and onto the floor; each bag has four loops / straps, two of which got caught half underneath the bag. The injured person saw what had happened and went over to help, he put the two top straps on the telehandler tyne, he then pulled on the two trapped straps and asked the telehandler operator to drive the forks through so that the bag could be stood up. During this process, the straps became taught, trapping the injured person's third finger on his left hand. As the pressure came on the injured person pulled his hand away, leaving his glove and the very end of his finger trapped under the strap, resulting in an open fracture of the bone.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

- Ensure loads are secure before attempting to transport them
- Only use suitable vehicle access routes
- Enforce exclusion zones around operational mobile equipment
- Stop & Think and Take 5 in event of unexpected circumstances

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Are safe designated vehicle routes clearly identified and maintained?
- Do we use the “thumbs up” rule to ensure vehicle operators and pedestrians are aware of each other?
- Are exclusion zones enforced around operational mobile plant, particularly for those guiding vehicle movements?
- Are Safe Systems of Work in place and communicated effectively
- Is Take 5 used prior to doing non routine tasks?
- Do we ensure new team members are aware of the hazards and risks of their role through effective induction and regular ongoing training?

KEY FINDINGS

Traffic Route	Incorrect route taken to transport load as regular route was blocked by other vehicle
Load	Unstable load was transported to storage area
Take 5	Take 5 training recently carried out with all
Take 5 / Stop & Think	Take 5 assessment not carried out for non routine task
Communication	Communication between fork lift truck operator and colleague not effective
Experience	Both employees are relatively new to the team



Inappropriate access route



Bulk bag lifting loop



Look after yourself and each other

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

Isolation Procedures

Never work on live or moving machinery – always 'lock out'.

Housekeeping

Keep designated access routes and work areas tidy and free from trip/slip hazards.

Safe Systems

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



STOP THINK ACT