

SAFETY ALERT

EMPLOYEE BROKEN THUMB

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

The Tension Head Machine at a Rail Sleeper Factory was stuck against the sleeper mould. An employee isolated the machine correctly, before attempting to free the machine from the mould using a pry bar. On releasing the machine from the mould, the employee became unbalanced and lost control / grip of the bar, which struck the top of his thumb.

The employee received First Aid treatment, before visiting the local hospital where an X-Ray confirmed he had a broken a bone in his thumb.

Housekeeping in the work area was of a good standard, and not the cause of the employee losing his balance.

The employee returned to work later the same day with some restrictions to his normal duties.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

- The stuck Tension Head was a recurring issue and overcome using a pry bar. The problem should have been investigated to identify the root cause and the most appropriate corrective actions to prevent having to use a workaround.

KEY REVIEW POINTS

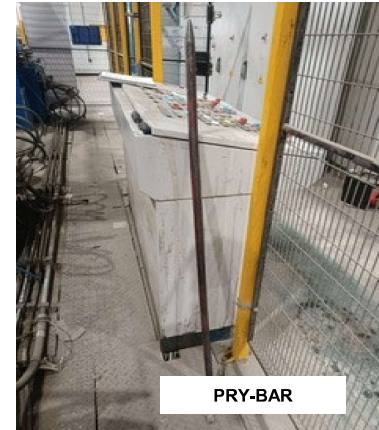
- Are Risk Assessments and Safe Systems of Work in place for all relevant activities and effectively communicated?
- Do personnel have the necessary training and experience?
- Do we always use the right, well maintained, tools / equipment for the job and never make do?
- Are personnel encouraged to report variations from standard working practices, so they can be investigated and resolved?
- Are maintenance routines and inspections carried out in accordance with the required programme?
- Do we STEP IN and Take 5 Together if we see anyone at risk of injury?

KEY FINDINGS

✘	Risk Assessments and Method Statements were not available for this specific task.
✘	Tools / Equipment – A pry bar was not a suitable tool for the task.
✘	The stuck Tension Head is a recurring issue, but had not been fully investigated to eliminate the problem.
✔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Permit to Work and Take 5 was completed prior to work starting. Isolation LOTOTO procedure correctly followed. Correct Personal Protective Equipment, PPE, (gloves) worn.
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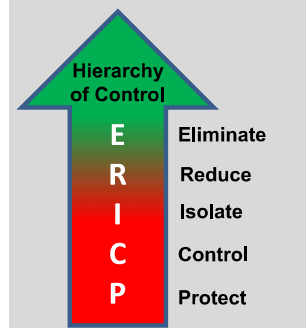


TENSIONING MACHINE



PRY-BAR

Display Until
16.02.24



Look after yourself and each other

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

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.



STOP THINK ACT