

Line of fire Injuries



Several recent incidents across the UK have resulted in hand injuries, including fractured fingers. In each case, a Take-5 had been completed. However, line of fire hazards were not effectively identified, assessed, or controlled, leaving individuals exposed to impact forces, moving equipment, pinch points, and the release of stored energy.

Hammer Strike - Impact

An employee impacted their hand whilst unblocking a chute resulting in laceration and a fractured finger:



Bench Grinder - entanglement

An employee trapped a finger between the tool rest and the abrasive wheel of a bench grinder, resulting in a laceration and a fractured finger.



Pry Bar - Impact

While changing a mesh screen, an employee suffered two fractured fingers when a pry bar being used to position the mesh deck slipped and impacted the other hand.



TAKE 5

Although a Take-5 had been completed in all these incidents, line of fire hazards were not effectively identified and controlled, leading to injury.

Even a minor hand injury can have a significant impact on family life, making everyday tasks, work and caring responsibilities more difficult, and placing additional pressure on loved ones.

What is the line of fire?



Line of Fire: Any situation where a person is exposed to the uncontrolled movement or release of energy, equipment, tools, materials, or loads that could result in injury. Always consider what could move, shift, fall, swing, or release unexpectedly and ensure you are not in its path.

Recognise the Risk

- Impact tools and flying material
- Pinch Points and crush zones
- Objects that may fall, swing or eject
- Rotating or moving machinery
- Stored energy and sudden movement
- Hands near the point of force

Stop. Think. Take-5. Control

- Stop - Pause before starting and whenever conditions change
- Think - Identify strike zones, pinch points, moving parts and stored energy
- Take-5 - Complete a task specific assessment and challenge the planned method
- Control - Use safer tools, positioning, isolation guarding and exclusion zones
- Check - Confirm control remain effective throughout the task

Remember

Before using impact tools/equipment

- Ensure workers are familiar with understand the applicable risk assessments and SSOW's for the task
- Complete an **effective** task-specific **Take-5**.
- Consider a mechanical or engineered alternative before applying force.
- Keep hands clear of strike, movement and trapping zones.
- Choose the correct glove for the task and consider impact gloves to provide additional protection against impact and pinch-point injuries.



Correct PPE?



Recognise the Risk

PPE is the last line of defence

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should never be relied upon as the primary control measure. PPE is the final layer of protection when all other reasonably practicable controls have been implemented.

Always select gloves appropriate to the task and identified hazards.

Ensure gloves provide the required protection without creating additional risks.

Wear impact gloves where there is a risk of impact, crushing, trapping, or struck-by injuries to the hands.

Remember

Impact gloves cannot prevent every injury, but they can provide effective protection to the hands and significantly reduce the severity of injuries when contact occurs.

THE RIGHT GLOVES FOR THE RIGHT JOB

PROTECT YOUR HANDS • WORK SAFELY • CHOOSE CORRECTLY

GENERAL PURPOSE GLOVES	IMPACT GLOVES	CUT RESISTANT GLOVES	CHEMICAL RESISTANT GLOVES
			
Lightweight, comfortable gloves offering good grip and general hand protection.	Designed with impact protection to help reduce the risk of crush and impact injuries.	Engineered to resist cuts and provide high levels of dexterity and grip.	Protect against harmful chemicals, liquids and other hazardous substances.
TYPICAL USES: - General handling - Warehouse work - Routine site tasks	TYPICAL USES: - Mechanical work - Lifting and rigging - Plant and maintenance - High-risk handling tasks	TYPICAL USES: - Handling sharp materials - Metal work - Glass and sheet materials - Construction tasks	TYPICAL USES: - Handling chemicals - Cleaning and washdown - Laboratory work - Spills and hazardous substances
THERMAL GLOVES	VIBRATION REDUCTION GLOVES	DISPOSABLE GLOVES	WELDING GLOVES
			
Protect against heat or cold, helping to prevent burns and frostbite.	Help reduce the effects of hand-arm vibration (HAV) from power tools and equipment.	Single-use gloves to maintain hygiene and protect against contamination.	Heavy-duty gloves designed to protect against heat, sparks and abrasion.
TYPICAL USES: - Hot works - Handling hot materials - Cold environment work - Asphalt applications	TYPICAL USES: - Using handheld power tools - Breaking and drilling - Prolonged equipment use	TYPICAL USES: - First aid - Cleaning tasks - Handling non-hazardous materials - Hygiene and food safe tasks	TYPICAL USES: - Welding and cutting - Hot work - Handling hot metal - Fabrication



WEAR
THE RIGHT PPE



CHECK
BEFORE USE



LOOK FOR
DAMAGE



REPLACE
WHEN WORN



FOLLOW
TRAINING & GUIDANCE

**HANDS ON SAFETY
EVERY DAY**

Line of fire



KEEP YOUR HANDS SAFE

STAY OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE

A few moments of planning can prevent a serious, life-changing injury.



1. STOP AND PLAN

Identify Line of Fire hazards before you start.
Ask: Is there a safer way to do this task?



2. CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE METHODS

Where possible, remove or reduce Line of Fire risks by using:

- Lifting aids and mechanical handling equipment
- Push-pull tools and alignment aids
- Guarding or improved designs
- Secure loads and prevent movement
- Release or isolate stored energy
- Use remote or hands-free methods



3. CONTROL THE HAZARDS

Ensure moving equipment, pinch points, impact risks and stored energy are properly controlled before you proceed.



4. USE THE RIGHT GLOVES

PPE is the last line of defence, not the primary control measure. Always choose gloves appropriate to the task and hazards. Impact gloves can provide effective protection for the hands and help reduce the severity of injuries from impact, crushing, trapping or struck-by incidents.



5. MAKE TAKE-5 COUNT

A Take-5 was completed prior to the tasks, however, Line of Fire hazards were not adequately identified or controlled, resulting in injury. Be thorough, challenge assumptions and ensure the right controls are in place.



IMPACT GLOVES PROVIDE EFFECTIVE HAND PROTECTION

Help reduce the severity of injuries when contact occurs.



THE BEST WAY TO AVOID A LINE OF FIRE INJURY IS TO ENSURE YOU ARE **NEVER** IN THE LINE OF FIRE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Questions everyone must ask

- Where could my hands be struck, trapped or caught?
- What could move, rotate or release unexpectedly?
- Can I remove the need to place my hands near the hazard?
- Is the Take-5 specific to the actual task and conditions, does it consider 'Line of fire risk'?
- Should I stop and seek another method or additional controls?

