

FATAL 6 – Serious injuries to fingers in 4 separate incidents

WHAT HAPPENED

A company experienced four serious injuries to fingers in a two-month period:

- Amputation of fingertips due to isolation not being robust for equipment being worked on.
- Finger damaged in a flywheel when trying to manually move drive belts on a blocked machine
- Deep lacerations to fingers when reaching behind a circular saw to retrieve wood.
- Fingers badly damaged when they were trapped between a falling floor beam and fixed metal girder.

All of the incidents above had a combination of different circumstances and factors leading to the injuries. It is difficult to pinpoint any single action that will prevent further harm. However, operatives should all take a minute before commencing tasks and think about the potential for finger injuries.



LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

Detailed below are a number of steps that if correctly followed might have prevented these accidents and will prevent further similar injuries. The precautions are:

- Always check your isolations have been effective before placing hands in machinery/ equipment
- Do not move belts/pulleys/flywheels and similar without specific tools/defined methods
- Check that you have the correct gloves (personal protective equipment) for the task
- Use push sticks/tag lines and similar as opposed to placing your hands/fingers at risk.
- Check if the risk assessment requires any specific controls to protect your hands?

Think where you put your hands and fingers – don't place them at risk!

LOCATION: CONCRETE PRODUCTS PLANT
ACTIVITY: GUARDING AND ISOLATION
SUB ACTIVITY: NO SUB ACTIVITY AVAILABLE

ALERT STATUS: Normal
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INCIDENT No: 01530