Hand Safety

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March 10, 2009
2009 Hand Injury Incident

Event or Exposure:
- Caught in or Crushed in collapse (3)
- Pinchpoints (3)
- Struck against Object (1)

Nature of Injury:
- Laceration or Cut (2)
- Crushing Injury (2)
- Bruise or Contusion
- Fracture
- Swelling (2)
- Pinched Point
How Do Hand Injuries Happen?

The analysis of HOW hand and finger injuries happens shows the most common as being:

- Being caught between tools and equipment
- Hitting objects after exerting force or momentum during manual lifting or moving of heavy objects (pipe, drums, tools, etc)
- Trauma after reaching inside, around, or underneath equipment and losing sight of the hand
Reaching in tight quarters/ into live equipment/ pinch point...
Why Do Hand Injuries Happen?

Even when people seem to know of the existence of these dangers, hand and finger injuries still happen.

??? WHY ???

- “It won’t happen to me!”
- “I have been doing it that way for years!!”
- “There isn’t a better way.”
- “It is faster this way.”
- and more....
Why Do Hand Injuries Happen?

The primary *causal factors* identified for hand and finger injuries are:

- Inadequate assessment of risk
- Inattention or lack of focus
- Cutting corners / rushing. Mistaken priorities - safety versus objectives.
- Lifting / applying force incorrectly
- Using the incorrect tool for the job

What are the **ROOT CAUSES** of YOUR Hand Injuries?
What is the Key to Prevention?

UNDERSTAND the task you are about to start. If you have any doubts, ask questions.

Be AWARE of ALL the possible hazards, ASSESS the risk and then CONTROL them – it will help save you a lot of potential pain.

THINK for yourself if the procedure for the task is correct and the best practice.

FEEDBACK to your work mates, friends and managers your discoveries. You might just save someone else's finger.
Focus Points for the Way Forward

- Promote and sustain the Hand Injury Prevention Program.

- Continue to emphasize the Hazard Recognition / Identification through newly implemented MSW Process before starting routine/non-routine work i.e. JSA (Job Safety Analysis), TIF (Think Incident Free) etc.

- Continue to motivate, promote and maintain the momentum of the Hand Awareness through existing tools, i.e. Safety Audit, HazOb, BBS, SWA, Near Miss reporting etc.
REMEMBER!!!

*Hands are the most important “Tool” you use.*

*Please take care of them!*
Thank You