



## Jointer Hand Injury

An SPM Jointer sustained a hand injury when their team was called to a site to carry out a service alteration.

On arrival, a START risk assessment was completed, which listed access/egress as one of the site hazards, with 'Sufficient access and egress to point of work' as the control measure. The risk assessment indicated that suitable access/egress was provided.

As part of the work planning, it had been agreed that the customer would excavate a trench from the existing meter position to the proposed new position, however on arrival at site it was seen that this had not happened. In order to meet the customer expectations the team agreed for the customer to excavate the trench whilst they conducted preparatory work.

The IP, who was wearing full approved PPE including safety boots, overalls and general work gloves, went to the vehicle for materials when they lost their footing on the muddy, littered ground and fell – reaching out to break their fall. The IP's right hand became impaled on a screw that was protruding from a piece of timber discarded on the ground.

First aid was administered on site, before the IP was transported to hospital where the wound was glued and other medical treatment administered.



*Site conditions at the point of works*

## Recommendations and action points

- Full point of work specific risk assessments shall be conducted and recorded prior to commencing any works. These risk assessments should capture all significant hazards, and hazards reduced to the lowest level practicable.
- Where possible, hazards should be brought safely under control by the individuals. If this is not possible staff should withdraw to a place of safety and report the situation immediately.
- All information should be recorded on the ROAM system, including photographs where required.
- **NEVER** put yourself at risk – if work cannot be conducted safely and in accordance with approved policy & procedure request additional advice.
- Remember the H&S Essentials: We Think Before We Act - Assess & Control the Risks. We Look Out for Each Other and Work as a Team for this particular situation.
- Always remain aware of your situation & surroundings and use the SLAM technique.
- If it looks or feels unsafe, it probably is.