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Event Classification: MTI

WHAT HAPPENED

A worker sustained a cut to their hand whilst using a reciprocating saw one-handed, separating pieces of timber that had been nailed together. The one-handed use of the tool resulted in the blade slipping and contacting the worker's free hand.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:

The worker was taken to a medical centre for treatment, where he received four stitches.

LESSONS LEARNT

Contributing Factors:

- Change Management: Last-minute changes resulted in insufficient job preparation and inadequate planning.
- Tool Handling: The reciprocating saw was operated with one hand instead of two.
- PPE: Protective gloves were not worn during the task.

Actions to Prevent Recurrence:

- Ensure the worker reviews the new Small Tools Guide for the correct practice of tool use.
- Include the Guide for discussion at the induction for new employees.
- Promote the Guide at Inform meetings.
- **Develop an "in the field"** video to inform work teams of the correct practice.

Lessons Learnt:

- Always operate a reciprocating saw using both hands to maintain control and reduce risk.
- Good work practices include:
 - Thorough job planning before starting the task.
 - Wearing task-specific PPE at all times.
 - Correct body positioning for stability and safety.



Figure 1 - reciprocating saw used

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