



Hand Injury to Linesman While Using a “Silky” Saw

Over the last 12 months, there has been a rise in cut injuries to both staff and contractors when undertaking work using “Silky” saws. Recently an SPM linesman working in the Mid Cheshire District received a cut to his hand while he was cutting and removing some braches from around his work area.

As part of his work, the linesman needed to fit an enhanced anti climbing bracket to the pole. Having completed this task he began to clear some small branches in the area around the anti climbing brackets using a hand held “Silky” saw.

Having cut through a couple of branches, he proceeded to use the hooked end of the blade to remove a branch from the tangled mass of the trees. In carrying out this action he lost control of the blade which resulted in the saw recoiling back and coming into contact with the back of his left hand, damaging his glove and cutting the back of his hand resulting in medical treatment.

Recommendations:

- Consider through risk assessment using a rod mounted Bow Saw as the preferred method. The rod will provide a physical gap between you and the blade and therefore reduce the potential of your limbs / hands coming into contact when in use.
- PPE provides the last line of defence and it is important that you consider and use the correct equipment for the task. For work which requires the use of sharp equipment, the Ansell HyFlex extended cuff glove SHALL be used. These gloves carry extra protection against abrasions and cuts.

Action: Team Leaders / Line Managers.

The hand is one of the most complex parts of our body - the movement of the tendons, bones, tissues and nerves allows us to grip and do a wide variety of complex jobs. Without such abilities it would be extremely difficult to carry out everyday tasks, both in work and at home. Please take sometime with your team and review the SP Energy Networks Glove Guide which can be found in the [Health, Safety and Environmental Handbook](#) and ensure only approved tools are used

All items are available through Logistics



Hand Held “Silky” Saw.



Rod mounted “Bow Saw” blade / attachment



Fuse Rod Sets For Bow Saw



Ansell HyFlex glove