



3 Significant Incidents in 4 weeks Involving SPEN Vegetation Contractors

- 1. Leg injury** – An operative sustained a leg injury causing a large wound and bruising. While pulling brash over a dry stone wall a large bolder dislodged falling on to the operatives leg. Initially an ambulance was called but the operative was able to make his way to hospital for an X-ray confirming no break. The wound was dressed and the operative was told to rest - 2 days off work
- 2. Eye Injury** – Operative sustained eye injury causing swelling and extreme discomfort. Whilst carrying out pruning from a rope and harness, the operative pulled on a cut branch which was jammed meaning he had to use force to dislodge the branch. The branch came free suddenly causing the tip of the branch to hit the operative in the face sliding under his visor and secondary eye protection striking his eye. First aid was carried out on site but the injury required hospital treatment, the eye was washed and an ointment applied. The operative was told to rest the eye - 2 days off work
- 3. Needle Injury** – Operative sustained puncture wound to his left hand. Whilst carrying out chipping in a Country Park, next to a public path, an operative picking up brash felt a sharp pain in his left hand. On inspection found a hypodermic needle had pierced his skin through the leather gloves he was wearing. Advice from the local A&E Department was that there was a low risk of infection, but told him he would need a blood test in four weeks' time. He also had a tetanus injection from his doctor.



Helmet with Visor and secondary eye protection



Public Footpath and Leather Gloves operative was wearing

Recommendations and action points

- All these incidents involved situational awareness at the work site
- Ensure that a suitable risk assessment is carried out prior to carrying out any work or pre-work inspection. All team members should be aware of specific risks on site
- Ensure that the risk assessment remains dynamic throughout the duration of the work
- Ensure the appropriate PPE is worn for the situation and task