



LTA – Jointers Mate receives a shoulder injury

On Thursday 20th August, a Jointers Mate was struck on his shoulder by a scaffolding board. The board had been leaning against the scaffolding tubes in an upright position, when a strong gust of wind caused it to topple over striking the Injured Person (IP) who was standing close by.



The IP had his back to the scaffolding and was overlooking the joint bay, preparing materials for the task when the incident happened. Both the excavation (the joint bay) and where the IP was working, was approx. 4.5 metres away from the scaffold, and although a START risk assessment had been carried out, the team did not acknowledge the scaffold or the upright board as a significant risk. The IP was taken to hospital where he was diagnosed as receiving a muscular trauma.

This accident highlights the continual need to consider and apply the SLAM technique when you're completing and reviewing your START assessment.

Recommendations:

- **STOP:** *Engage your mind before your hands or feet. Be conscious of your surroundings as well as the task at hand.*
- **LOOK:** *At your workplace and the surrounding environment for hazards.*
- **ASSESS:** *The effect that those hazards have on you, your colleagues and the general public*
- **MANAGE:** *Those hazards by taking immediate and corrective action or stopping work if you feel it is unsafe.*

Your safety, and that of your colleagues is and must always be your number one priority. Whether you're working in the field, in an office or working from home, ensure you take sufficient time to think about safety, focus in on your risk assessments and talk with each other about how you can make sure you stay safe at work.