

Safety Alert

Event Number: E16635

Event Date: 22 May 2015

Classification: Personal Injury, Medical Treatment Injury

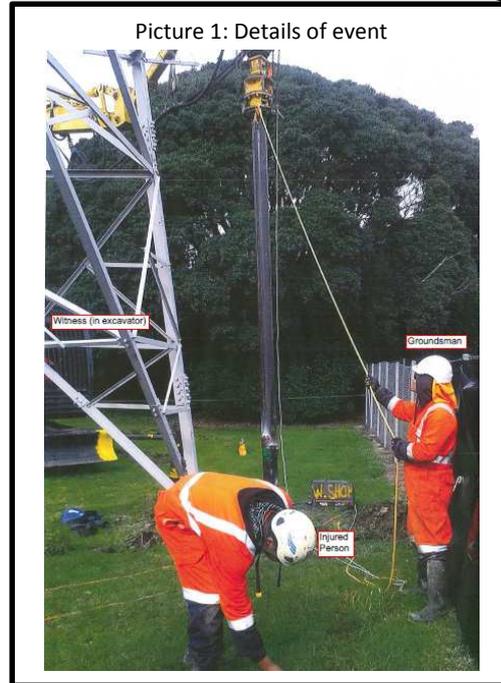
Head Injury

Description of Event:

On 22 May 2015, a sub-contractor was using a tool called a drive tool that is attached to a digger arm. To release the load on the digger arm, there is a pin with an 8m long rope that is pulled by their groundsmen that releases the load.

On the other side of the load another sub-contractor employee from the same company had been welding with his full face shield on, he was in the process of picking up his tools to clear the area and had not yet changed over his welding full face shield for a hard hat. (Indicated by injured person in picture 1).

As the groundsmen released the load, he pulled the pin too hard and it hit the employee who had been welding in the back of the head causing a personal injury which resulted in two stitches.



Contributing Factors:

- The groundsmen did not intend to cause harm, he was over vigorous when pulling out the pin
- The injured person was in the process of picking up his tools and putting on his hard hat
- The task had been normalised as the hazards involved in this task had not been properly considered until this event occurred.
- The welding full face shield does not give the same protection as a hard hat to the head

Actions to Prevent Reoccurrence:

- Safety observer/groundsmen to ensure primary hazard zone around the groundsmen pulling out the pin is a minimum of 5m
- Groundsmen to use less force when releasing the pin
- Safe working procedure to be added to sub-contractors groundsmen manual
- Procedure to be added to sub-contractors JSEA
- Investigate if new welding masks/hard hats are suitable for this task.

Lessons Learnt:

- Complacency – not fully assessing the risks of the task.
- Normalisation – this procedure has been used many times in the past without incident and considered low risk. Pulling the pin with too much force had not be consider a hazard to those in the immediate vicinity
- Consider lashing the pin, so when it is pulled out it cannot go anywhere

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Date of release: 8 June 2015