

Safety Bulletin

26 November 2015

Mouth Injury – Using a Lever Tensioner Twitch – MTI

Releasing a lever twitch to unload digger off truck, using an extra lever bar to assist with the tightness of the lever (Lever bar extension specifically designed for this twitch -not a cheater bar.). The lever swung up violently hitting the IP (Injured Person) in the mouth, splitting his lip and damaging his teeth.

IP had been working with levers for 13 years and was aware of the energy that can be stored within the lever. When the lever bar released quickly it is believed it bounced off the excavator and hitting the IP in the mouth.



Lever bar extension

Lever twitch- (Dog) Tensioner



Key Points:

- **Risk & Hazard ID** – The importance of working through a hazard ID and risk assesment of the hazards prior to start work even for experineced operators.
- **Lever Tensioners** (dogs) store energy when load has been secured and travelled. Due to the energy stored the lever has the potential to kick back with force twisting the chain and lever.
- **Banned** -Cheater bars (length of stel tubing) if used can become projectile with the amount of force for the lever tensioner.
- Lever tensioner are classed as highly hazardous and are not used in Australia
- Ratchet style lever tensioners are a safer alternative and do not store energy or kick back.



Safer Ratchet Style Tensioner

Actions:

1. The company is in the process to look at banning this equipment, replace all Tension Twitches with Ratchet type Tension holding equipment.
2. Education to Electrix personnel on the dangers of the Lever twitches and proactive approach from management to banning this equipment to replace with a safer option - ratchet style load binder.
3. Company seeking NZQA based training.
4. Equipment - Twitcher hooks to be place on 6 monthly Equipment checks.

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