



Safety Alert – SA230

(Update to SA227 – released March 2014)

Injury that resulted when using a Rattle gun 12.02.14

This Alert is applicable to (please tick):

Distribution		Transmission		General Business Distribution	X
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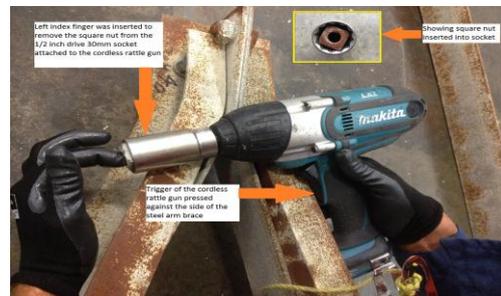
Date of issue: 19/05/2014

UPDATE

What happened?

IP was injured when he put his finger inside the socket of the rattle gun to try and release the nut and inadvertently hit the trigger which resulted in the nut spinning onto his finger.

What was initially a First Aid injury is now a serious harm injury.



- He dislocated his finger and promptly put it back into place himself.
- Misdiagnosis on the first visit to the doctors by the nurse who didn't think it necessary he see the doctor
- Misdiagnosis when he went to his own doctor due to an infection – and physiotherapy was recommended
- Sent for an X-ray which showed no damage
- Had 1x physiotherapy treatment and the physiotherapist put finger into the splint
- 1 week later IP removed splint and by that stage there was a severe bend in his finger
- Visited the Northpower doctor who set up appointment with a surgeon.
- MRI scan was carried out and unfortunately the results have shown there is nothing that can be done other than to amputate the finger.

What have we (Northpower) learnt from this incident:

- The injured person must be accompanied to the doctor by his/her Supervisor / Manager
- If the injured party cannot see the Company Doctor in the first instance, but instead needs to get to the nearest Medical Centre due to the seriousness of the injury, or the site location where the injury occurred is too far away the Northpower Doctor **must** be contacted as soon as possible thereafter for a second opinion if there is any cause for concern
- Northpower to take ownership of the injured person right up until he/she has received a full clearance for work
- Ensure the tools provided are fit for purpose and everyone is suitably trained to use them
- Ensure all staff / subcontractors are aware of their responsibilities when involved in a workplace injury and keep Management informed and updated at all times with any ongoing treatments and doctors forms etc.

his alert was released by:

Janine Wagstaff
Transmission HSQE Manager
Mobile: 0274595660