



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

# SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 34



Issued 16/9/08

## USING THE RIGHT TOOL/EQUIPMENT

### INCIDENT:

An employee struck on the side of the head by a “claw bar”, while assisting to roll over a section of rail line

### DETAILS:

A work team was given the task of removing a section of crippled rail.

A pre-planning session had taken place the day before and a pre-work brief was conducted on the day of the job.

The section of crippled rail (18 metres) had been cut and two employees were trying to remove this section of rail. These two employees were using “roll bars” – one on each end of the section of rail

A third employee, noticing that the other two employees were having difficulty in removing the section of rail, grabbed a “claw bar” and assisted. The third employee was working from the centre of the section of rail to be removed.

As the section of rail “rolled over”, the 2 “roll bars” released, as they should. The employee using the “claw bar”, tried to remove his bar, he could not.

The built up energy of the section of rail, caused the “claw bar” to become a projectile, striking the third employee on the side of the head. The injured employee was taken to hospital and remained there for several hours under observation.

The consequences of this incident could well have been much worse. Fortunately the employee has suffered no ill effects of his injury.

*THE WRONG TOOL (CLAW BAR) WAS USED FOR THIS TASK*

*THE INJURED EMPLOYEE DID NOT USE THE TAKE FIVE PRINCIPALS – HE DID NOT ASK HIMSELF*

*THE “WHAT IF” QUESTIONS*



### ACTION:

Employees are to be instructed that the right tool/equipment is to be used for the task at hand

If the right tool/equipment is not available, do not proceed.

Claws Bars not to be used for “rolling” lengths of rail line

- Advise all employees under your control of this Safety Alert.
- Place the Safety Alert on display
- Ensure a “sign-off” (for example, a Team Safety Meeting record) is obtained to verify that employees have been briefed on this Safety Alert.



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**Claw Bar – the blue bar above**

**Rail Turning bar at bottom of picture**