



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 35



Issued 22/9/08

TOOL/EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

INCIDENT:

An employee struck in the face by a piece of flying metal

DETAILS:

An employee was observing the task of removing rail anchors.

A “spiking hammer” was being used

A piece of metal split from the hammer head and became a missile – striking the employee in the face. The employee required stitches

The hammer head was manufactured from “hardened steel” and was not expected to “mushroom or splinter”



ACTION:

ALL HAND TOOLS OR EQUIPMENT THAT INVOLVES METAL ON METAL USE, (eg. Hammers, bars) ARE TO BE INSPECTED IMMEDIATELY. ANY DEFECTIVE OR FAULTY EQUIPMENT NEEDS TO BE “TAGGED OUT” AND REMOVED FROM SERVICE

All tools/equipment needs to be inspected, on a regular basis, prior to use. With some tools, this may mean inspecting every time before they are used. This especially applies to tools where there is metal striking metal during their use/operation. Tools need to be inspected for “mushrooming”, cracks, splits and un-even wear.

- 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.