

ZHA-2012-48**Date: 13/07/2012**

LTI – Crushed Finger Injury



What happened?

- > During sleeper renewal work on the Glen Waverley line, a labor hire employee had his finger crushed between the rail and a lug (component that holds the clip in place)
- > Whilst inserting a plastic component (biscuit) between the lug and the rail, the excavator operator lifted the sleeper and the biscuit moved positions. The injured worker then attempted to re-align the biscuit and whilst doing so the excavator operator also attempted to re-align the sleeper. The worker's finger was then crushed between the lug and the foot of the rail. The injured employee was wearing gloves at the time
- > The injured worker was taken to the emergency department of the nearest hospital. X-rays were taken to determine if bone had been sheared off. The injured employee had plastic surgery the following morning to remove any protruding bone. The worker lost approximately 5 millimeters of the top of the finger. The employee was released from hospital later in the afternoon and was given alternative duties 2 days after the incident.

Why did it happen?

- > Both the injured worker and the operator double handled the materials without adequately communicating with one another to ensure that only one task was being performed at any given time.
- > The methodology of how the work was performed was changed without completion of a risk assessment and consultation with all employees.

Action required:

Remember:

- > A risk assessment in consultation with workers and the safety team must be conducted when the methodology changes.
- > Prior to performing a task that involves a ground crew/heavy plant combination clear communication protocols to be in place prior to commencement of task.
- > All workers to have a thorough understanding of the communication protocols
- > If any employee feels that the task is unsafe or they have not been provided with adequate training, stop performing the task immediately and raise your concerns with the supervisor, HSR or Project Safety Advisor.
- > PPE including gloves to be used at all times when performing manual tasks
- > Remember **STOP, THINK, ACT, REVIEW**

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| For further information contact: | Yvette Canvert – HSE Coordinator - Southern | Phone: | 0428 014 468 |
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Discuss at next available pre-start meeting/post on notice boards – (valid for 3 months)

31st October 2012