



# SAFETY ALERT

16 March 2016 // 001

## A PILING OPERATIVE IS STRUCK ABOVE THE EYE WITH A PILE CASING BELLY BAND WEDGE

During operations to remove segmental pile casings from a concreted pile, a steel wedge used to trap the casing while extracting from the pile jettisoned from the belly band and struck a piling operative above the eye causing a deep laceration and severe swelling to the face.

**CRITICAL FACTORS:** The wedges were not restrained in position by a chain or strap as these had been removed. One of the Belly Band legs was not situated on the guide wall when it was set up due to the size of the wall when it was first cast.

**CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:** The rig operator rotated the casing slightly to assist the operatives release the casing screws and undo them. A standard Allen Key was being used but the operative was using a short length of scaffold pole over the Allen Key to gain extra leverage

**EVIDENCE OF CHANGE:** A checklist has been produced to check the condition of the Belly prior to use and the maintenance regime has been reinforced. Restraining chains have been refitted to the wedges. A maintenance schedule has been put in place for the segmental casings. A learning note has been produced and the casing extraction procedure has been updated



Extent of injury above the eye



Example of belly band wedge with chains

Mark Ingram  
Operations Director

### ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Brief to all rotary site teams and display on the site notice boards. Briefing records to be returned to HS&E Dept.
- Include the investigation learning in the procedures
- Share the Safety Alert with other members of the Federation of Piling Specialists

- RESPONSE REQUIRED
- BMS WILL BE AMENDED
- FOR INFORMATION ONLY