SHEQ ALERT

>7 DAY RIDDOR HAND INJURY WHILST USING HAND TOOLS

BACKGROUND

The site team were in the process of installing various mini piles using a drilling rig and a 5t excavator in a low headroom working environment. Due to the height constraints, some of the cages needed to be connected via alligator type couplings. Whilst on pile position P098, the final cage was being installed when it was noticed that one of the 6 x B32 bars did not align with the coupling below.

ACCIDENT DETAILS

Just prior to the accident occurring the cage was turned to see if this would make a difference but then it was then observed that 4 bars were out of alignment. The cage was returned to its original position and works were stopped, so a solution could be sought.

As the team were discussing potential solutions the “IP”, who was stood on the opposite side of the cage to the foreman picked up a 14lb sledgehammer and proceeded to strike the bent B32 bar. The “IP” reported in striking the bar the they trapped their finger between a bar on an adjacent pile and the shaft of the sledgehammer resulting in a serious crush and laceration injury to the R/H forefinger that required hospital treatment.

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S H E Q A L E R T

INITIAL INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

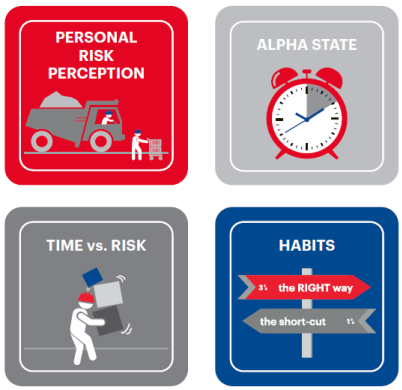
Following the accident, the initial investigation found:

- In addition to joining cages via the alligator couplings, there was also superlatch type cages on site, but they could not be utilised in this area due to the low headroom constraints on this position.
- The likely cause of damage to the B32 bar was due to the bar getting damaged during multiple lifting operations prior to installation or, it being damaged by another piece of mobile plant working in the vicinity.
- To install the cage following the incident levers were used to put the bar into position prior to lowering.

RECCOMENDATIONS

A summary of the recommendations are as follows:

- As a reminder, all staff are to consider the PATH principles before acting.
- All staff should be reminded of the need to stop and seek guidance when there is something different or the normal method of working is not possible.
- When a revised method of work has been approved, all staff involved in the operation are to be re-briefed on the approved method of work and the change management section in the SOS brief is to be updated to reflect the change.
- This safety alert is to be used in future projects as a training / briefing tool to remind staff of the dangers of hand injuries when installing cages.
- Prior to the delivery of cages a review is to be undertaken to identify an area where cages can be stored in a position where damage is very unlikely and that they will not have to be continually moved on site.
- Levers should be considered to align cages instead of sledgehammers and only when hands are not at risk of trapping or crushing hazards.



THINK P.A.T.H

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