

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Other Struck By Falling Shaft

Two employees were removing an idler shaft from the bottom of a conveyor to replace bearings. The first employee was using a short length of 2X4 braced on their left shoulder to hold the shaft in place as the bolts were removed by the second employee. As the last bolt was being removed the shaft slid down the 2X4, turning slightly, striking the first employee on the face. The incident resulted in a 1cm long laceration on the second employee's upper left side lip that required 4 small stitches.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Perform a hazard and risk assessment when working in an awkward position. Focus on line of fire hazards.
- Use proper rigging to hold up pieces of the equipment when removing bolts and gravity is an energy source.
- Develop a standard work procedure for lifting or positioning overhead components during installation or removal that includes the use of hoist or jacking devices to reduce or eliminate the need for components to be manipulated by hand.
- Senior tradespersons who work with apprentices have a responsibility to model effective hazard assessment and planning for how they will safely go about preparing for and completing tasks.

IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

When working in overhead or awkward positions perform pre-job hazard assessments that focus on line of fire hazards.

BCFSC welcomes all incident or near-miss submissions.

If you have an incident you'd like to share or subscribe to the Safety Alert of the Week go to the link below. BCFSC will review and remove all identifying information to protect your privacy.

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