MANUFACTURINGAsk YourselfSAFETY ALERT"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Metal Splinter Injuries

Two recordable incidents occurred involving metal splinters when handling hard steel on hard steel.

A worker was installing a bearing in the edger, a Millwright struck the side of the bearing with a hammer. A small piece of the bearing broke off and embedded itself in their groin. Medical treatment was required (4 stitches).

While a worker was attempting to change a seized bearing on a conveyor using a hammer, a small metal fragment (approx. 4mm x 1mm) flew towards the worker who was standing 10 feet away, striking their left calf. Lost time and Medical treatment was required. (3 stitches and 4 days off work).

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Identify hazards, conduct adequate field level risk assessments (FLHA) and follow Safe Work Procedures, regardless of repetitive or routine tasks.
- Clear the work area of bystanders and ensure all PPE, including Safety Glasses AND Face Shield, are used when using rotary tools or when hammering steel.
- Explore safe alternative to avoid steel on steel impacts. Remember tools like hammers, chisels and punches produce flying metal splinters that cause significant injuries.
- Consider using dead blow hammers or brass headed hammers or punches.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Avoid hammering hard steel with hard steel. Consider using dead blow hammers or brass headed hammers or punches.

MAG Manufacturing Advisory Group



BC Forest Safety

BCFSC welcomes all incident or near-miss submissions. To protect your privacy, we will review and remove all identifying information.

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