

# MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

**Ask Yourself**  
*"Could it happen here?"*

## **DESCRIPTION OF EVENT**

### **Medical Treatment for a Fall**

An employee was tasked with inspecting the weld on the east end of a 12-inch steel I-beam. The beam was horizontally installed and secured to five screw piles. While leaning forward for a closer look, their left foot slipped on the edge of a shallow trench that had been excavated to set the I-beam to grade.

The ground was uneven and covered with cobbles, contributing to the loss of balance. As the employee fell, the inside of their lower leg struck the end of the I-beam just below the knee with the full force of their body weight.

The employee was taken to hospital and initially treated with a tetanus shot, anti-inflammatory and pain medication and diagnostic imaging to rule out fractures or internal damage. Approximately one week after the incident, the injured area showed signs of infection. The employee returned for further evaluation, which included a follow-up X-ray and a course of antibiotics for the infection.

## **SUGGESTED ACTIONS**

- Complete Field Level Hazard Assessments (FLHAs) before entering the field to identify and manage potential risks.
- Stay focused on the task at hand and avoid rushing to reduce mistakes and injuries.
- Review and improve the pre-work process so it covers projects that fall outside the usual scope of operations.
- Encourage stretching exercises to reduce fatigue and improve flexibility before starting physical work.



## **MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY**

Always complete a Field Level Hazard Assessment before starting work. Stay focused and avoid rushing. Review pre-work processes for tasks that fall outside the usual scope, and take time to stretch to reduce fatigue and help prevent injuries.

