

Significant Incident Alert

Type of Incident: Restricted Work Injury

Key Issues: Incorrect Equipment & Operation

INX ID: 85856

Date & Time: 11:00 hrs, April 11, 2022

Location: Process Plant – PAR Project

Consequence: Actual – Consequence 2 Restricted Work Injury
Potential – Consequence 3 Lost Time/Hospitalisation



DESCRIPTION

- An Electrical Trades Assistant was installing new cable trays at the processing plant as part of the Process Asset Renewal (PAR) project. In the process of drilling holes for a stainless steel splice join the drill bit jammed, twisting and injuring the right hand.
- The results of medical review and X-ray, confirmed an un-displaced rotational hairline fracture at the base of the 4th right hand finger. Medical treatment included immobilising the fracture site (splinting and plaster of paris), arm sling support and prescription pain relief.
- A Return to Work Plan (RTWP) is in place, including being assigned alternate light duties for a period of 6 weeks. The scheduled RTWP medical review was completed on April 30, 2022.

LESSONS

- The investigation established that the basic cause was associated with the use of a powered hand operated drill (with no torque control), combined with the absence of a pilot drill hole for a large diameter drill hole resulting in the drill bit jamming and injuring the trades assistant hand.
- Utilise battery powered hand drills (with torque control) in conjunction with stepped drill bits to reduce the potential for large drill bits to jam and injure personnel where practicable.

ACTIONS

- The key identified preventative action was to remove hand operated powered drills from the worksites and issue battery powered hand drills (with torque control) in conjunction with stepped drill bits.

Mark Thompson
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