

LTI – Severed Finger Lifting Wheel Wash Tracks

Number	2023-16	Date	21/08/2023
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Summary:

On a UK Construction Site, 3 operatives were assigned to remove a buildup of silt from a wheel wash. In order to gain access beneath the tracks they had to be removed. The 3 Operatives had manually lifted the 2 sections of track on each side of the wheel wash resting them vertically against the side of the wheel wash body. The weight of each section of track is 280 kg. Whilst lifting one of the track sections it slipped off the supporting steel and was miss aligned with the deck.

Once the silt had been removed, 2 of the Operatives were levering the section of track with timber pieces to put it back onto the steel supports, the IP (Injured Person) was also lifting near the top of the section. The section started to lift then fell back suddenly. The IP's hand was near the top channel close to the point where the two large track sections meet. As the track he was trying to support fell back and passed the stationary track the IP's right index finger was severed at the first knuckle. The IP was taken to hospital by ambulance but his finger could not be reattached.

Outcome: Severed index finger on the right hand

Incident Classification: L2 – LTI – RIDDOR Reportable



Root Cause and Contributory Factors	Action and Lesson Learned
<p>Immediate/Direct Cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP in the line of fire during the unplanned movement of the large steel assembly which was been inappropriately manually lifted. <p>Contributory Causes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breach of the requirements of the CPP. Lack of Manual Handling Assessment. Lack of Manual Handling Training for the Operatives involved in the task. Poor/ineffective task planning/Failure to specify mechanical lifting method. Use of inappropriate tools and equipment in the timber levers. <p>Root Cause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violation of Site Rules/Legal Requirements (Manual Handling Operation Regulation 1992 (Reg 4)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action taken against the contractor due to the violations of site requirements as laid down in the CPP. Ensure all persons on site carrying out manual handling activities are suitably trained and competent. Check site tasks (especially those ad-hoc cleaning and remedial tasks) for the suitability of work equipment. Reinforce the hazards and risks associated with the line of fire by use of training and information regarding this subject.