

Lacerated chin caused by flying wedge

Safety Flash Published on 15 December 2010 Generated on 12 January 2025 IMCA SF 08/10

An incident has been brought to the attention of IMCA, in which a worker received a laceration to the chin.

What happened?

A worker was removing a steel wedge from the frame of a crane track during disassembly. The wedge dislodged when struck by a sledge hammer and ricocheted against the frame before striking the worker. The worker was taken to an offsite facility for treatment where he received stitches. He was able to return to work without restrictions.

Our member's investigation revealed the following:

- The wedge was in a bind when it was struck.
- The injured person was 'in line of fire' for the rebound of the wedge after it was struck by the sledge hammer.
- The injured person was not wearing a face shield whilst removing the wedge.
- Established procedures did not adequately recognise or cover the hazards for the task being performed.

Our member drew the following lessons:

- The use of wedges for this process should be eliminated and the appropriate alternative tools used for pin alignment and removal.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including face shields should be used for required wedge hammering, impacting and banding operations.
- More detailed work plans were developed down to the task level, including specific PPE for each task, appropriate tools and body positioning.



Worksite and position of wedge

IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of the entire offshore industry.

The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on the industry sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Incidents are classified according to IOGP's Life Saving Rules.

All information is anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate, and warnings for graphic content included where possible.

IMCA makes every effort to ensure both the accuracy and reliability of the information shared, but is not be liable for any guidance and/or recommendation and/or statement herein contained.

The information contained in this document does not fulfil or replace any individual's or Member's legal, regulatory or other duties or obligations in respect of their operations. Individuals and Members remain solely responsible for the safe, lawful and proper conduct of their operations.

Share your safety incidents with [IMCA online](#). Sign-up to receive Safety Flashes [straight to your email](#).