

Hand and finger injuries... Two recent incidents

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Hand and finger injuries continue to be a significant theme in the incidents shared with IMCA by its Members.

STOP! Take the time to think things through before starting work. Your hands and fingers are the best tools you have – and you only have one set of them.

Incident one: Crush injury to right hand small finger

A worker suffered a crushed right little finger whilst moving the moonpool door ram. The ram was placed on a flat pallet at the time, so the potential for movement was high. The movement of the ram crushed the worker's finger causing a split in the skin and a fracture.

What went wrong

- Although a toolbox talk had been conducted, including a basic risk assessment for manual handling activities, the full scope of the work had not been adequately assessed.
- No-one stopped to think and reassess the additional hazard: that the ram would move, was not foreseen.

Lessons

- Look at the ENTIRE situation – consider the use of ABBIE (Above, Behind, Below, Inside and Environment).
- Ensure task-specific risk assessment is sufficiently thorough.
- If the job changes – **STOP**, re-assess, if necessary, activate a “Management of Change” process.
- Remember you can and should **STOP THE JOB** if you think it is unsafe – don't just carry on!

Incident two: First Aid Case – OUCH! A completely unnecessary hand injury

When removing the ceiling plates in the main deck instrument room, a worker cut his hand on a ceiling plate, which had sharp edges. The worker was not wearing

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls



Line of fire

gloves – as should have been the case. Wearing gloves would have prevented the injury.

Lessons

- Watch where you put your hands! It's so easy just to do it – **DON'T! STOP and THINK.**
- PPE is there for a reason – **use it.** Gloves you can replace: fingers and hands, you can't.

Members may wish to refer to:

- [IMCA video – watch your hands](#)

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

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