

## MSF: Eye injury whilst opening paint tin lid

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The Marine Safety Forum (MSF) has published [Safety Alert 21-15](#) relating to someone injuring their eye whilst attempting to open a tin of paint

### What happened?

The incident took place in a well-lit workshop, the injured person was not fatigued, nor inexperienced, was focused on the job and wearing proper PPE including fitted safety glasses.

As an attempt was made to pry open the lid, the screwdriver slipped from the point of contact and sprung in an upwards motion travelling underneath the person's safety glasses to penetrate the right eye.

The MSF's correspondent noted that *"the client's notification process was not followed, and offshore installation was not informed of the incident which led to some confusion and could have led to a delay in evacuation"*.



### What went wrong?

- There was no defined tool or recommendation for opening this type of paint tin lid.
- The Risk Assessment in place did not capture the task of removing the paint tin lid as a hazard.
- By design, the paint tin lid was rounded and tight fitting, which was also deemed a contributing factor as the screwdriver required force to separate the paint tin lid from the tin itself.
  - Given that the screwdriver used was of the long-handled type, it was also considered difficult to control.

## Actions

Purchase of a safer alternative in the form of a specific paint tin opening tool (see images) was agreed, with the use of screwdrivers prohibited for the task.

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