



2023-07 - LTI WORKER STRUCK IN THE FACE BY HDPE PIPE.

Number	2023-07	Date	10/05/2023
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Summary:

Recently on a UK Construction Site a groundwork operative was preparing a trench for the installation of a 63 mm diameter High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The worker had to lay sand in the trench and to do this he decided to move the length of protruding pipe out of the way and hold it with a Heras Fence block. Whilst manually manoeuvring the pipe it slipped out of his grasp. The stored energy in the pipe caused it to spring back to its original shape and its arc of travel meant that it struck him with force in the nose and eye part of the face causing lacerations to the nose. He also suffered lacerations around the eye where his safety glasses had absorbed the impact but pressed against his face.

Outcomes:

The worker attended the site medical room where the Site Medic dressed the lacerations he attended the local hospital for a check up and returned to site two days later.

Incident Classification: L2 – LTI – 1 Day



Line showing where the pipe struck the face

Minor injury caused by the impact on Safety Glasses

Pipe that sprung back causing injury



Photo taken at the time of the injury and used by written permission of the injured Person

Root Cause and Contributory Factors

- Incorrect planning of the activity by the supervisor or review of the task by the operative highlighting the risks of changes from the documented task.
- Not identifying the potential change to the task by the supervisor during the pre-task briefing.
- The operative not identifying the manual handling requirements involved in moving the pipe and informing his supervisor of the need for two people..
- Handling error (pipe slipping out of the hands) which caused stored energy in the pipe to be released hitting the operative in the face.

Action and Lesson Learned

- Reinforce and retrain contractors on the use of the Point of Work Risk Assessment (Take 5) and the need to check the work area to highlight any changes from the documented risk assessment
- Provide Manual Handling Training and refresh those trained by way of tool box talk highlighting manual handling requirements
- Re-enforce site PPE rules. It is highly probable that this worker would have lost an eye had he not been wearing standard Light Eye Protection (Safety Glasses). Please remember this if you pass someone on site who is not wearing their safety glasses and politely ask them put them on.



Every Lesson Learned is an opportunity to avoid recurrences.
What have you done to avoid a similar incident on your project?

