

Marine Safety Flash

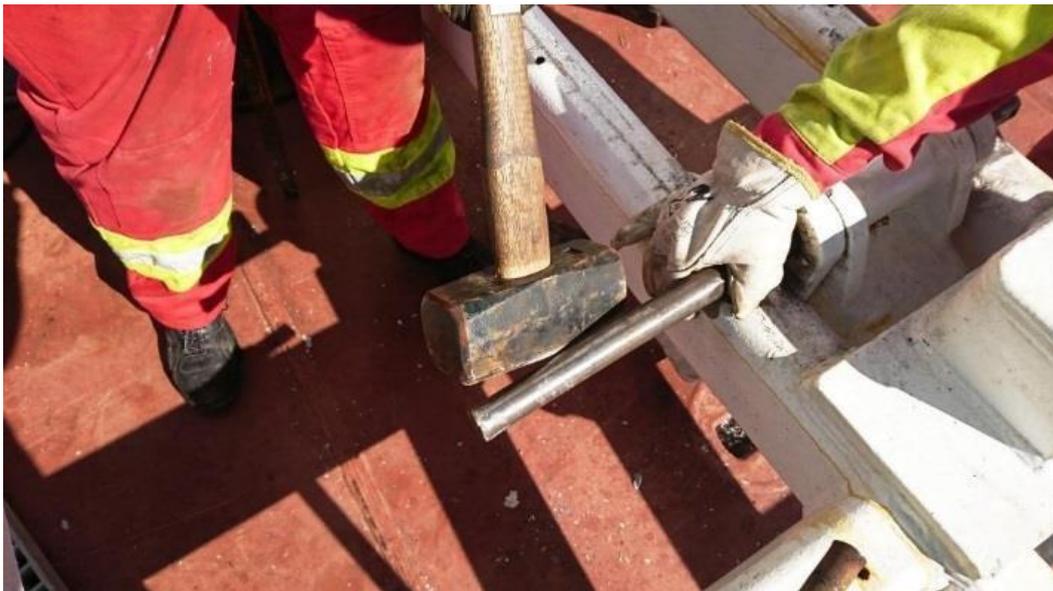


A17-04 (12th June 2017)

Finger Injury

Overview

AB`s were doing maintenance on the oil spill recovery equipment frame. One of the hinges on the support leg was stuck and needed to be disassembled for lubrication and removal of rust. Initially, the AB`s used a kenter pin puncher to remove the bolt from the hinge. However, the tip of the puncher was too short to push the bolt all the way through and so, a sledgehammer and steel punch was used to force the bolt the rest of the way. While AB 1 used his right hand to align the steel punch with the bolt and keep it in place, AB 2 were to use a sledgehammer to hit the steel punch and push the bolt through.



Key Findings

- Correct PPE was used.
- Kenter pin puncher was identified as the correct tool for the job. When it became evident that this was not sufficient, the use of alternative tools were not properly risk assessed.
- When the bolt was pushed halfway through, the leg/hinge started twisting, making it necessary to support the leg to keep everything aligned. As there were only two people involved in the job, this meant that AB 1 had to both support the leg and hold the punch. At this point, the job should have been stopped and the help of a third person obtained.

Marine Safety Flash



Recommendations

- **STOP – THINK**

Take the time to stop and think about what you are doing. Is this safe? Could someone get hurt? Is there a safer way to do this?

- **Always** use the correct tools for the job. When removing a pin or bolt, use a kenter pin puncher if possible.
- If a handheld punch is used, this should **never** be held in place by hand. Always use a pipe wrench, or other suitable tool, to ensure that hands and fingers are not in line of fire.
 - Also, consider welding a permanent handle to the punch.
- Ensure that you have enough people to perform the job safely. If the requirement changes, stop the job until further help can be obtained



Marine Safety Flash

