

Safety Flash A12-02



Issued: 15th January 2012 Subject: Hand injury

On New Year's Eve, one of the catering team sustained a laceration while working in the galley. The crew member commenced shift at 0700; and was preparing breakfast and the New Years Eve menu.

As part of the preparation, large metal cans were opened with the bench mounted can opener. The crew member placed the opened can on the bench top and continued with food preparation. Later while momentarily looking away, the person reached for the can. The left hand made contact with the lid of the can and sharp pain was felt. On seeing blood, pressure was applied to the area; at the same time a numbing sensation was felt around the index finger.

As a result of medical assessments conducted on site the person involved was immediately evacuated directly to a hospital for specialist assessment and surgical treatment.

We can do a lot better and this incident typifies a number of unnecessary and totally preventable recent hand / finger injuries sustained in the galley in recent months.



Above left is a picture of the can opening tool in the galley.



Above Right is the large can.

In the case of this incident, suggested action to members is TAKE THE TIME TO:

- Consider and assess the work to be conducted;
- Check the equipments and any operating concerns and or restrictions;
- Wear the appropriate safety equipment – Kevlar gloves, if provided, are to be worn;
- Be safe and conduct a Take 5 or consider developing a JHA;
- Re-emphasise safety and wellbeing during periods such as the Xmas / New Year Period, start/end of swings;
- Identify potential causes of hand injuries in the galley. Consider a DVD on knife handling with a JHA;
- Take care when opening large cans;
- Consider your safety and prevent those unnecessary injuries; and
- Not to rush and run the risk of injuring yourself.

