

Marine Safety Flash

A15-02 (15th February)



Employee hit in face by projectile

Incident Overview

Whilst walking to the gangway to exit an Anchor Handling Vessel, IP was struck on the cheek by a projectile. This occurred Approx. 10 – 12 metres from where any work was being performed. The work being performed at the time was: 2 x vessel crew were hitting a lead plug into a kenter-link with a steel sledgehammer.



- There was no cleaning or flushing of the wound, nor was there any covering applied it post event.
- This task had been completed 14 times already during the shift for this deployment.
- Safety glasses, hard hat, steel cap boots, long sleeves and pants were worn at the time

Key Findings

Large hammers are ok for the initial impact to 'lock' in the lead plug however smaller size hammers (4Lb) to be utilised when finishing the hammering of the lead plug into the pinhole.

Recommendations

- Review task risk assessment and ensure it is up to date.
- Use 4lb hammers (only) for completion of hammering in lead plugs
- Communicate with all employees to ensure they monitor and maintain safe systems of work while completing tasks and to report incidents even when considered minor to leaders.
- Share lessons learnt with Anchor Handling Vessel HSE teams
- Operator is trialling using mobile barricades to demarcate area to minimise the risk of projectiles hitting bystanders.