



IP injured left thumb using torque equipment

Summary

IP sustained a severe laceration to the tip of left thumb whilst using torque equipment

Activity Location

Inboard location on scaffold platform adjacent to flange assembly

Activity Type

The use of hydraulic torque equipment to tighten stud bolts on flange

Description

At approx 02:30hrs on 08/06/2013 whilst using torque equipment to complete flange assembly the IP placed the torque head on one of the bottom nuts. The IP held the torque head in place on the nut with his left thumb. Due to the constraints of the work area he shuffled forward on his hands and knees holding the operating trigger in his right hand; he inadvertently knocked / pushed the start button resulting in the air powered tool operating and his thumb being badly damaged

Consequences

Severe laceration of the top of the injured party's left thumb

Causes

Adopting an unsafe work position, Poor task preparedness

RCA findings:

- The working position adopted by the IP was wrong creating unhealthy ergonomics.
- There was insufficient planning and supervision to identify the awkward position the IP would be expected to adopt during the task.
- The requirements of the Work Control Certificate (WCC) were not followed (Hydraulic Bolt Tightening Equipment: Ensure that fingers/hands are clear of pinch points before applying hydraulic pressure to tensioning tool)

'GOLDEN RULE' Reminder – No 3 Gestures / Postures / Tools - Use of a tool must take account of correct posture, operating time limits and the repetitive nature of the movements.

Lessons Learnt

4Sight to prevent re-occurrence

Planning stage of a task must identify any awkward work areas – Always consider the working environment and identify what controls are required to make the job safe.

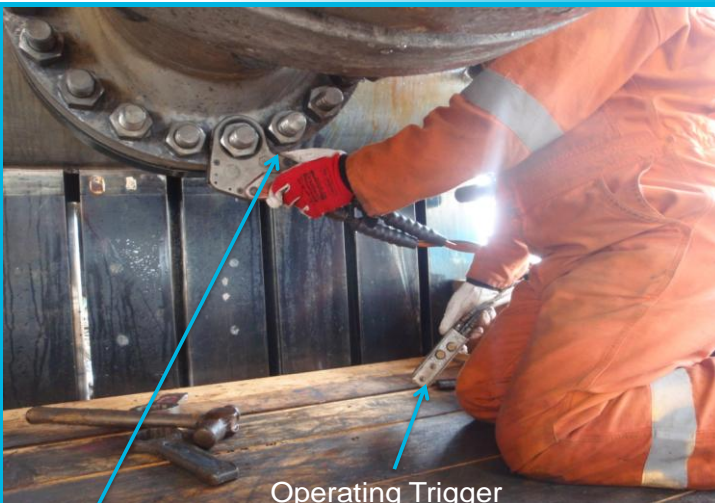
Warning signs to be attached to similar tools

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Recommendations

- Site Visit and TOFS held with all core crew (Maintenance, Operations, Services - Days and Nights) to demonstrate the means of injury, tool used and correct work positioning.
- Highlight reaction area at working end with yellow paint and black stripe - applicable to all such tools involved
- Distribute photo of injury with warning "keep hands clear of working area - lesson learnt from 8/6/13.
- Attach warning signs to all similar tools at base station
- TEP UK to review their tooling hire contract and identify if better tooling options are available for site use.

Figures



Hydraulic Torque Equipment showing thumb incorrectly positioned on locking mechanism as per the injury.



Thumb position as per injury.
NB Thumb should never be on locking mechanism



IP Thumb Injury

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