



LESSONS LEARNED

Hammer Line of Fire

WHAT HAPPENED?

Two employees were working together to change dies in the vice of a HDD Drill. One employee was holding a punch while another delivered blows with a sledge hammer. There was a misalignment of the hammer and the punch during one of the blows, which resulted in the head of the hammer clanking off the hand of the employee holding the punch. Luckily, there was no injury sustained by the glancing blow. Work was immediately stopped while the crew identified a solution to hold the punch in place without putting anyone's hands in the line of fire.

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Human and Logistic Factors

- Rushing the activity to get the drill rig back up and running to eliminate down time.
- Body placement of workers performing the assigned task.
- Placing hands too close to the line of fire.
- Failure to recognize the hazard, which if identified, could have led employees to recognize the potential risk involved and develop controls to mitigate the hazard.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Work activity was stopped.
- Crew was brought together to offer ideas to remedy the potential risk.
- Crew had a welder fabricate a tool that allowed the punch to be held with hands away from the line of fire.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Never rush into any work activity.
- Always be aware of your work surroundings.
- Never place body parts where they may get caught-on-between or struck-by.
- Use the right tools for the task being performed.
- Conduct a hazard assessment associated with the work assigned, identify potential hazards involved, and effectively control and eliminate the risk.