



Learning From Incidents

Rigging Injury

Brief Description of the Incident

- While attempting to remove a T-post from frozen ground using an excavator and a sling, an employee noticed adjustments were required. While the employee adjusted the sling the operator started to take up the slack. The resulting tension caught the workers thumb between the sling and the T-post.



Consider and Discuss the Following Latencies

Supervisors

- Are we ensuring our workers are trained on heavy equipment communication protocols?
- Are we ensuring our workers have the proper tools to perform their tasks?
- Are we coaching our workers on how to identify hazards during routine tasks?

Crew Members

- Do I ensure communication signals are utilized by everyone involved in my task?
- Do I take the time to properly evaluate my potential risk for seemingly routine tasks?

Direct Causes

- **Improper position for task** – Improper hand placement resulted in the employees thumb getting pinched between T-post and sling
- **Failure to communicate & coordinate** – Employee attempted to reposition sling without confirming the operator had stopped

Underlying Causes and Contributing Factors

- **Failure to identify hazard**– Employee did not identify the crush point between the sling and T-post
- **Inadequate availability of tools** – Specific tools are available in industry for pulling T-posts, however they are not commonly stocked in the warehouse

Key Learning Points

1. **Supervisors shall ensure proper tools and equipment is readily available**
2. **Workers shall ensure mechanical equipment is stopped before entering line of fire**
3. **The severity of line of fire/crush/pinch point hazards may be compounded in situations where supplemental energies are present.**