

LFI: **Hand Injury (LOF)** @ Blending & Storage

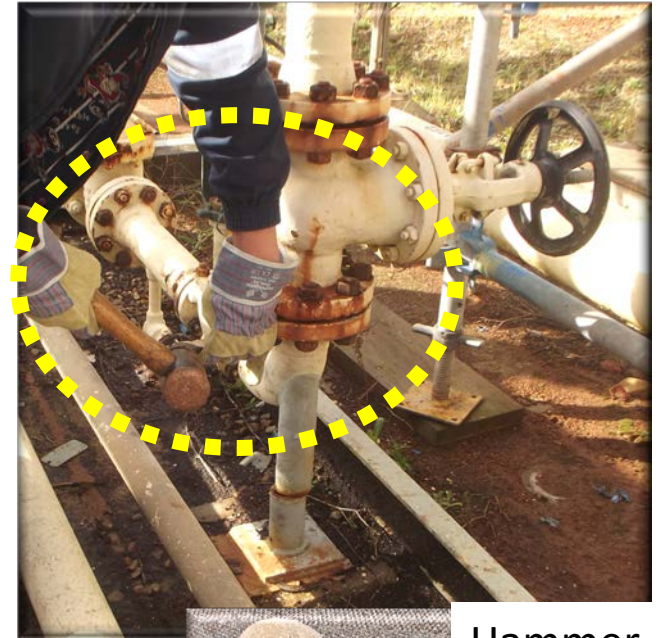


IOD **FAC** – 3 June 2024

- Unit 51: Blending & Storage -

What Happened...?

- o COE Apprentice Fitter was tightening bolts on a 3" flange.
- o The injured was using a flogger spanner and copper hammer to do the tightening.
- o The injured accidentally hit himself on the left hand resulting in a superficial laceration on the left index finger.
- o The injury did not report the injury when it happened at 10am. The Supervisor was present at the job site.
- o The injury was discovered later at 14H30 by the Occupational Health Practitioner when the colleague visited the medical station for random testing.



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Why it Happened...?

- o Tightening the nut below the flange – thus flogger spanner must be held tightly in place to prevent it from falling out.
- o *Hitting the nut tight moves the flogger hand away from the hammer – i.e. the left index finger starts to move into the line of fire.*
- o If flogger spanner is not repositioned, the available space for hammering will also be reduced.
- o *Thus the left index finger was caught in the Line of Fire of the hammer.*
- o **Direct Cause:** Substandard technique given the specific orientation (vertical pipe direction) and site location of the flange.



Flogger Spanner moves backwards as it is hit.

Smaller available area to hit on.



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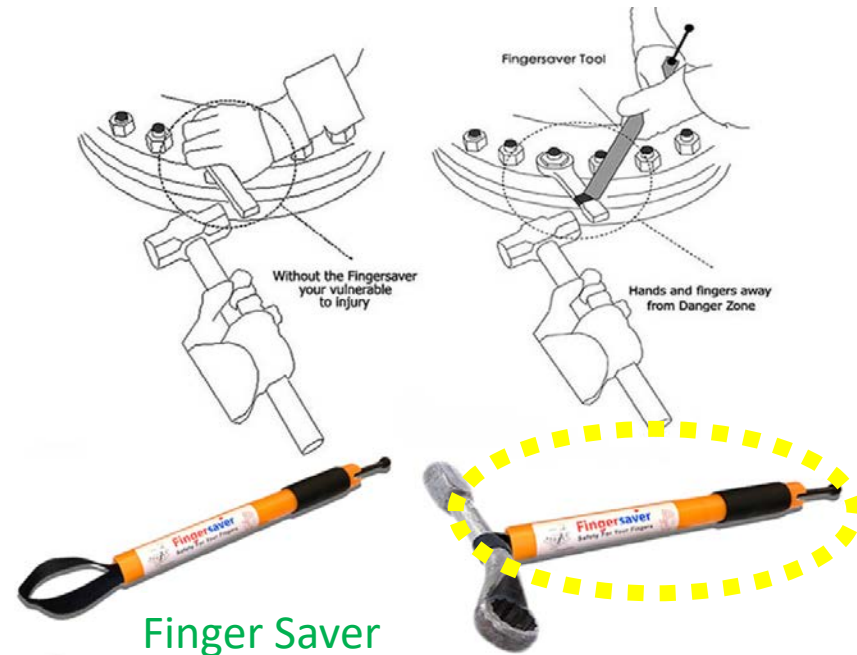
At Risk Behaviours & Conditions...?

Behaviours...

- o Following procedures / practices / standards for the job: flogger spanner not repositioned prior to injury
 - deviation by individual.

Conditions...

- o Jobsite Environment and Layout: congestion and restricted movement.
- o *Protective Systems: industry best practice not used*
 - *i.e. using a finger saver holding the flogger spanner.*



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Root Causes...?

- o *Inadequate skill level – insufficient practice of skill – safer to tighten the bolt rather than the nut (same diameter) given the vertical positioning – training.*
- o Inadequate ID of jobsite hazards – specifically the hazards that the skill level (competency level) of an apprentice will not be able to handle safely at the jobsite.
- o *Employee Awareness – injuries on duty must be reported immediately to the supervisor.*
- o Employee competency – employee not yet trained on internal PetroSA Flange Management Procedure.
- o Management of Operational Risk – not using finger savers or similar devices to lower risk.

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Finger Saver

Lessons Learned...?

- o Using a flogger and hammer can easily lead to a reportable injury (fracture and long term LTI) – **beyond the PetroSA Risk Appetite.**
- o *Given the above – it is critical for Us to view this activity as High Risk from a Mechanical discipline point of view – thus the quality of the task risk assessment from Mechanical for the permit must reflect that risk level going forward.*
- o The training and skill coaching at COE (using a flogger safely) must also then be audited to confirm the skill at a requisite level for entry onto site.
- o *Prior to a COE Apprentice doing flange tightening, they must be conversant with the applicable sections of the PetroSA Flange Management Procedure – must have been practically trained thereon.*
- o The use of finger savers or similar devices to reduce the risk of a reportable injury must be evaluated and utilised given that the risk of this activity without the finger saver protective device is beyond PetroSA's injury appetite.

Thank You



“Do your little bit of good where you are;
its those little bits of good
that when put together
can change the world”

Desmond Tutu