

Incident Learning: What happened?

Incident Description:

- On Monday, April 26, 2021, at approximately 10h18 a Contractor Company employee was injured whilst in the process of modifying scaffolding during a 10-year tank maintenance project.
- The scaffolding components were obstructing the safe lifting of the interlinking walkway. This was previously identified and would have been modified the previous week but due to weather conditions the scaffold modifications were postponed to the morning of the lifting activity.
- Whilst the Contractor Company was preparing for lifting and rigging operations, the scaffold modifications (high-risk activity) proceeded without the required supervision from the Contractor Company and the Appointed Representative. During the process of modifying the scaffold the ledger slipped through the band and plate coupler, injuring the employee on the left little finger (pinky). He was taken to the site office where first aid was administered and thereafter taken for further treatment. He received four (4) stitches. The incident occurred at approximately 10h18 and was only reported to the Site Management at approximately 16h00. Reporting should be immediate following any event to ensure all necessary protocols are correctly followed post an accident.

Consequences:

- Physical: Left pinky finger (4 stitches)
- Material or production-related: Loss of Production



Two employees modifying scaffolding



Band and Coupler



Left little finger

What are the learnings for implementation?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review method statements and risk assessments for scaffolding works to ensure that pinch points and risks of handling are controlled.
- Perform a stand down to communicate the risk relating to pinch points and supervision.
- Appointed Representative should not leave the works area when high risk activities are taking place, works should be stopped if there is a need to leave the area for the evaluation/preparation for any other operation e.g. document validation for lifting operations.
- Appointed Representative to be assigned for only one (1) high-risk worksite at a point in time