

SAFETY ALERT

E&CS Lessons Learned - Best Practices

A contractor Ironworker apprentice was using a 3/4" impact to tighten bolts on the bottom side of a hopper. While using the impact wrench, the impact wrench kicked back and struck the employee in the mouth, causing a laceration to the left side of his upper lip. The employee was taken to the off-site clinic by the contractor safety manager. The clinic referred the employee to a medical center for further evaluation. The employee received sutures which makes this a recordable injury.

Contributing Factors:

- The contractor employee did not have adequate training on the safe use of an impact wrench.
- The crew did not identify the potential hazards on the JSA.
- The contractor's safety procedures did not address workers operating an impact wrench above their shoulders.
- The contractor employee was in an improper body position for the task he was performing.

Preventing Reoccurrence:

- Contractor has implemented the use of platform style ladders in areas where a standard step ladder use would put employees in an at-risk body position.
- Contractor has added a requirement for employees to wear a wire mesh face shield in addition to safety glasses when impacting bolts above shoulder height.
- The contractor will develop and implement a mentoring program for apprentices to ensure a highly skilled and safety conscious journeyman is paired up with them to provide additional oversight of the worker.

Culpability Result:

- System-Induced Error or Blameless Error

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