

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 5/5/2022

The Incident

An associate was adjusting/fitting the gap on a valve with a 2½-pound hammer and a pocket wedge. The associate missed the wedge while trying to hit it with the hammer and pinched his right index finger between the wingnut of an ultra-clamp and the handle of the hammer. The impact caused a fracture to the tip of the right index finger.

The Causes

- The workspace was constricted (positioning limited): engineered scaffold platform, many pipes and obstructions, little headspace, and associate was wearing fall protection PPE.
- The pocket wedge utilized was too short, 3 inches. Longer wedges were not available onsite.
- Ultra-clamp alignment was in an awkward position, putting the wingnut handle in the line of fire.

Prevent It

- Sufficient pre-task planning to setup more efficiently for the constricted space, and ensure the correct tools are available.
- Impact resistant gloves protecting the backs of the hands and fingers.
- Supervisor/Management pre-task engagement to identify all hazards to ensure event-free performance.

Action Plan

- Conduct an Incident Review and create a Safety Flash for distribution.
- Research and acquire impact resistant gloves.
- Pre-task engagement prior to starting tasks regardless of customer pre-task planning or STAC utilization.

Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.