

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 1/11/2019

The Incident

Two associates were emptying an old plastic barrel that was being used as a trash can. As they lifted the barrel, an accumulation of ice inside caused the load to shift, pinching one of the associate's fingertips between the barrel and the garbage hopper. The associate sustained a fracture and required stitches.

The Causes

- The barrel was not a trash can and had no handles to grip, which allowed the barrel to shift in the associate's hand.
- The associate's hand was in the line of fire between the barrel and the garbage hopper.
- Ice had formed in the bottom of the barrel which had been left outside.

Prevent It

- Always use trash cans with handles.
- Keep trash cans inside the building to prevent ice from forming in the bottom.
- Be aware of hand placement, body positioning and potential pinch points while performing all tasks.

Action Plan

- Proper trash cans with handles are being used.
- Trash cans were moved inside the building.
- Incident review findings and corrective actions were shared with the crew.

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.