

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury
Date of Incident: 7/1/2020

The Incident

Associates were installing a monorail with an electric winch. The monorail was behind and adjacent to another smaller monorail to be installed later. The injured associate was stabilizing the monorail with a tagline and by hand. The rigged monorail was approximately 6" off the cribbing when it likely struck the staged monorail, upsetting the piece from its cribbing, onto the associate's left foot, causing fractures to two toes and separating the toenails from the cuticle.

The Causes

- Material Staging/Handling
 - Second monorail (mechanism of injury) was not being hoisted, and stored in front of the monorail being lifted.
 - Monorail was top heavy in configuration being installed.
- Distractions/Lack of Focus -
 - Associate was focused on property damage primarily, not aware of being in the line of fire.
 - Unsteady work schedule; the associate was brought back after a significant break.
 - Upcoming holiday
 - COVID-19
- Heat Stress
 - Ambient Temperature: The temperatures were in the high 80s on the day of incident. There was minimal air flow and ventilation in the building.
 - Radiant Heat (kiln): The kiln furnace in the building was shut down less than 24 hours prior to starting work and the building was still hot.

Prevent It

- Identify material laydowns, and staging areas. Only bring in necessary materials to the working zone.
- Field fabricate outriggers to prevent staged material from upsetting from cribbing.
- Stabilize materials with lashing or by other feasible means.
- Daily review of STAC, and any pre-task planning.
- Heat injury mitigation (hydration, frequent breaks, electrolyte replacement, adjust schedule)

Action Plan

- A custom safety meeting was created and carried out for all associates on Monday, July 6, which covered recent incident trends, heat injury mitigation, pre-task planning, and staying focused.
- Ensure that extra time is allotted in pre-bid phases to account for material handling and staging.
- Field level leadership to conduct a Tool Box emphasizing the importance of pre-task planning and review.

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.