

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 10/4/2018

The Incident

Three journeyman were removing guide rails. When they were unable to remove the remaining upper rail with hot work tools alone, they began using a porta power hydraulic piston jack. As they applied lateral pressure with the base of the porta power against the looper car I-beam, a piece of the rail's south end broke free without warning. The piece pivoted on the long end and caused a worker's hand to come into contact with the fixed structure of the looper car. His injuries included a fractured ring finger, a lacerated middle finger and a bruised pinky finger.

The Causes

- The crew did not anticipate the piece pivoting and rotating, creating a pinch point when freed of its fixed position on the base plate.
- Hands were on the piece when it became energized due to force applied from the porta power.

Prevent It

- Air-gap the piece with hot work and avoid hydraulic assistance because the behavior of an energized piece is unpredictable.
- If using a porta power or similar hydraulic tool, keep all hands off the piece.
- Use two rigging points to capture the piece rather than trying to grab or hold it.

Action Plan

- A safety stand-down was held on site and the incident was shared with crews.
- Additional oversight and interface were conducted with outage crews throughout the jobsite.

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.