

# Safety Flash

## Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 11/9/18

### The Incident

An Ironworker crew was removing the bottom platform grating of the brick machine, which is used during outages to reline the bricks in the vessel. As you travel outward the pieces are naturally longer to make the span for bearing. They sit on 3¼" wide square stock steel that has smaller diameter inward sections that articulate out that are pinned in place. When fully assembled there are end angle clips that squeeze the grating tight towards the inner circular wall to lock the grating in place. The scope of work was to remove each piece to a dedicated lifting point to be hoisted by hand to the upper fixed platform. The platform at this time was 4' above the bottom of the vessel and the Ironworker was wearing a hardness and retractable.

As the Ironworker was walking a piece in the middle radius kicked up and struck his left shin. It settled and shifted a few inches; however, never fell and the piece still rested on two bearing points. His natural reaction to the grating shifting caused him to bump his left elbow causing a bruise. After arriving to the trailer he realized the extent of the wound to his shin was worse than thought. He reported it to the general foreman and sought medical treatment.

### The Causes

- The design of the grating causes it to float when not locked in place while assembling or disassembling. This creates a hazardous situation during this timeframe of the work.
- There was no other positive means of attaching the grating to structure bearing surfaces.

### Prevent It

- Work with customer to engineer a solution for the grating to prevent shifting/more bearing points.
- Establish a written method to positively secure grating to prevent shifting during assembly/disassembly.

### Action Plan

- Stand down with both shifts sharing the incident with the crew.
- Additional BOF oversight and interface with outage crew.
- Meet with customer's environmental health department to share operational experiences and recommendations.

### 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.