



Safety Flash

OSHA Recordable

Date of Incident: 7/18/17

The Incident

A millwright associate was torch cutting steel at the walking beam table at a customer location on 7/18. The area was tight and there were multiple torch setups working nearby. He felt a piece of slag enter his right ear and sizzle. It is unknown if the slag originated from his work or from the other hot work in the immediate area. He did not report the incident until a week later when he was on dayshift once the outage was extended. After medical evaluation, it was determined the associate has a small perforation in his ear drum.

Contributing Factors

- Not timely reporting the incident or seeking any possible first aid intervention.
- While hearing protection was not required, the hazard was not identified.
 - Note: Hot work was identified on the STAC.
- The congested area and proximity of hot work.

Primary Contributing Factors

- Hazard recognition when performing hot work to consider hearing protection in congested areas or possibility of ricochet.

Action Plan

- Communicate this lesson learned companies wide.
- Capture this experience in the new STAC revision.

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 RLG Safety: Mike Sousaris – 216.287.5760.