



## SAFETY ALERT MTI – Crush Injury

ZH Alert No: WTE 46

Date of Issue: 25 January 2012

### WHAT HAPPENED:



1. The Purlin



2. The racking and roller



3. Hacksaw machine

Our employee was cutting 8 meter length of purlins down to a required size. He was attempting to drag 4 x 8 meter lengths of purlin down from the racking to the rollers in order to feed into the Hacksaw Machine, he was attempting to work more productively by moving more than one purlin at a time.

The uncontrolled end of the purlin dropped off the racking and the end our employee was holding became too heavy to control. As our employee tried to let go the purlin dropped onto his index finger causing a crush injury requiring medical treatment.

### WHY DID IT HAPPEN (DIRECT CAUSE):

The load the apprentice was lifting was too great and it was also at an awkward length. Our employee needs to follow standard manual handling techniques and ask for help when performing this type of lift.

The racking system allowed the purlins to slide off at the uncontrolled end.

### Contributing Factors:

- The employee performing a two person lift on his own in order to work more productively.
- The racking system being inadequate to stop the purlin from dropping to the ground.

### Corrective Actions Required:

- All employees be made aware of correct manual handling techniques
- Host employer will need to address the racking system to ensure the steel being slid from the racking to the rollers can not slip to the floor. Welding additional vertical brackets on the ends of the existing brackets can alleviate the risk.

### Key Learning's:

**This event highlights that safety and productivity work hand in hand. Our employee was trying to get the job done quicker by moving a load that was too great, causing an injury which resulted in a greater loss of productivity for our host employer.**

Remember to **STOP THINK ACT REVIEW** prior to the commencement of any Activity