



## SAFETY ALERT LTI – Eye Trauma

ZH Alert No: STE148 revised

Date of Issue: 26/09/2011

### What Happened:

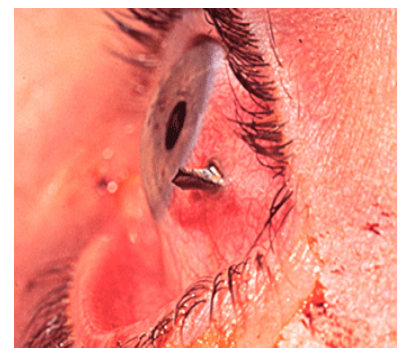
Our refrigeration apprentice was working on a roof attempting to pull bearings off a steel shaft. He was tapping the bearings with a hammer and some steel came off striking him in the eye, the steel lodged in his eye and protruded out requiring surgery to remove the steel and close the wound on the eye ball.



Fan and bearing casing



Bearing Casing



The type of injury that occurred

(Please note this is not an actual photo of the injury)

### Why Did It Happen:

According to our apprentice it is standard practice to hammer the bearing case until it cracks and loosens around the shaft. The injury occurred because our apprentice was not wearing the correct PPE that was issued.

**If our apprentice was wearing safety glasses this injury does not occur**

### Contributing Factors:

- Apprentice not wearing PPE. Personal Protective Equipment is considered a priority in the Hierarchy of Control as a way to help alleviate risks associated with tasks.
- Lack of reinforcement of PPE use from the host employer

### Corrective Actions Required:

- All apprentices must wear minimum PPE when working.
- Field officers to reinforce the use of PPE with apprentices and Host Employers reminding them that they have a responsibility under the Occupational Health and Safety act to work safely.
- Host employers to monitor and reinforce the wearing of PPE to all apprentices

### Key Learning's:

**PPE is always the last line of defense against these type of injuries however if this employee was wearing safety glasses this injury does not occur.**

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