



SAFETY ALERT LTI – Severed finger

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WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee suffered a serious laceration injury to his finger whilst moving stainless steel sheets from pallet racking. The laceration caused nerve damage and also severed the tendon; this was repaired under micro surgery.



1. Racking for sheet storage



2. Removal of sheets



3. The injured finger

Why Did It Happen:

Due to the large surface area of the sheet metal there is a vacuum created making the sheets hard to separate and move. The host employer has ensured that for this reason the lift is always two persons. Whilst lifting the sheet, our employee was attempting to separate the sheet when the other lifting partner began moving it. Our employee's finger was caught between the sheet metal and the hard metal surface of the pallet racking, effectively guillotining his finger.

Contributing Factors:

- The storage technique of the stainless steel sheets
- The method used to remove the sheets manually
- Poor communication between the two employees performing the lift
- Lack of hazard identification prior to the lift commencing

Corrective Actions Required:

- All personnel are informed of the incident and informed of the hazards associated with the lift
- The method of moving sheets needs to be reviewed, suggestions would include:
 1. Using a forklift to move the sheets out and away from the pallet racking prior to the moving of the sheets, this removes the opportunity to trap the fingers.
 2. Creating movable trolleys and storing the sheets on these for the easy transporting and removal of sheets to the different machines.

Key Learning's:

Always assess hazards prior to commencing any task and look for a safer way to complete it

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