Fatal 6 - Operative hit in face by airline - correct use and adjustment of airlines

WHAT HAPPENED

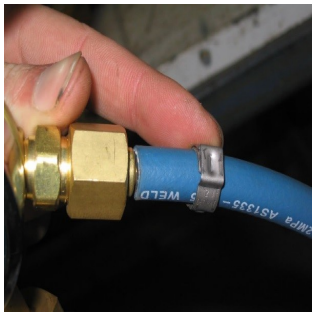
Whilst repairing and changing a wheel on a forklift truck, an air powered impact wrench was required to help remove the wheel. In preparing for the task it was observed that the airline being used needed adjustment to allow the impact wrench to be used. After the adjustment had been made and the airline fitting secured into the hose, the air pressure to the airline was opened and the air power tool attached to the airline. On attaching the power tool, the airline came away from the fitting, whipping back and hitting the operator in the face causing a broken tooth and cut lip. The injury potential was much higher – this could potentially have resulted in the loss of an eye.

Hose from incident

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

Review all airlines for suitability of use and type of fastener to secure the fitting. • Ensure the hoses used are made to British Standard for the application you are using. • Ensure the fitting is the correct size for the hose being used. • When adjusting any airline fitting, use a fresh, clean and undamaged part of the correct hose when fastening the fitting. • Use the appropriate fastener for your pressure applications. Seek advice from a hose specialist. • High pressure applications should use mechanical fabricated fitted or crimped fastenings. • The preferred mechanical fastenings shown below can be done in house with the correct equipment and training.

Mechanical cramped fitting



Crimped ring fitting

LOCATION:	CONCRETE PRODUCTS PLANT	ALERT STATUS:	Normal
ACTIVITY:	MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING	DATE ISSUED:	18/10/2019 15:15:53
SUB ACTIVITY:	N/A	INCIDENT No:	01529