Employee fractures finger with his hammer whilst undertaking maintenance work

WHAT HAPPENED

Two employees were attending to a fault on the raw material bucket elevator. During the task, one employee was using a hammer to drive a securing pin back into position to secure the elevator's bottom chute. While striking the pin, the employee misjudged the hammer blow and struck a finger against the steelwork. The employee immediately informed the operations manager of the incident and was advised to attend A&E for assessment. Later that evening, the employee confirmed that the injury had resulted in a fractured fingertip.

KEY FINDINGS

- Permit to Work was completed for the task.
- An initial risk assessment had been completed by both employees.
- Isolation was carried out correctly.
- The job scope had changed, therefore the initial risk assessment should have been reviewed to identify the additional hazards (using a hammer).
- SSOW did not fully identify the steps required to complete the task without the need for a hammer.
- Gloves were being worn at the time of the incident; however, they were not an impact-resistant type.

Image below is X-ray of the damaged finger



LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- Ensure that SSOW’s cover all aspects of the task, including potential changes during the work. The site team has reviewed and updated the R/A and SSOW accordingly.
- Investigate other methods to take the employee/contractor out of the line of fire when using tools/equipment.
- Consider task-specific PPE, such as impact-resistant gloves, where risk assessments identify a requirement.
- Review of risk assessment when/where the scope of the work changes.

LOCATION:	**COMPANY-WIDE**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**17/11/2026 10:01:16**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**CONVEYORS**	**INCIDENT No:**	**04991**