

Fatal 6 - Stored energy medical treatment injury - BMAPA Alert

WHAT HAPPENED

A conveyor belt contractor working onboard a UK marine aggregate dredger was engaged in turning the longitudinal belt which had flipped during operation. During the task the turfor clamp/hook became “stuck” between the conveyor frame and the rubber conveyor belt, the contractor then gave the chain to which the clamp/hook was connected a tug.

The clamp/hook freed more easily than he expected and as the IP was standing directly beneath the hook and was pulling the chain towards himself it contacted his right upper lip.

The contractor’s RA stated under Hazard: Working with Hand Tools, Control Measures: Keep close track of tools when working at heights. A falling tool can kill a co-worker. Pass a Tool to another person by the handle, never toss it to them.

A second contractor, who was working above the IP and close to the stuck hook could have assisted with the freeing of the hook but wasn’t asked to

help or identify the reason for the hook being stuck.

In the toolbox talk prior to the task starting, a discussion took place regarding being hit by a moving object where is stored energy is present, and that safe practices would be adopted such as standing clear of any snap back areas, ensuring sufficient grip/purchase is obtained on the belt and using tools where the operation of increasing the load on the tool is clear of the person operating it so that a failure or slip would not cause injury.

First aid treatment was administered onboard, a further review of the TRA and safe working method was completed, the job was completed by contractors and injury investigation commenced. The IP subsequently visited his dentist and had a cracked tooth removed and plans to have a false tooth fitted.



LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- Risk Assessments for working on conveyor belts must be reviewed and consider the hazard of being struck by moving object/tools when fastening and removing turfors from a clamped position.
 - Ensure close supervision and staff adopt a safe method of working as it will be specific to the location and tools in use.
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LOCATION: AGGREGATE DREDGER
ACTIVITY: MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING
SUB ACTIVITY: N/A

ALERT STATUS: Normal
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