

EMES High-Value Learning



What happened?

- A worker was lowering a 2-ft. x 2-ft. well lid into place during a groundwater sampling event. An 18 in. handled pry bar that was used to open the well cover was located on the ground near the well vault.
- While lowering the lid, the worker dropped the lid to seat it into the gasket. The lid hit the pry bar that was left on the ground adjacent to the well vault.
- This contact caused the pry bar to flip up and strike the individual on the chin and temple.
- Immediate first aid (gauze compression) was administered on-site and the IP was transported to the local emergency room where they received stitches (medical treatment) to close the chin wound.

What's the Worst Thing That Could Have Happened?
Broken bones in face, neck laceration, eye damage or head injury

Lessons Learned

- Store hand tools in a designated storage place (tool box, bucket, bag, etc.) out of the line of fire of equipment and walking paths. Communicate this location to team members on-site and visitors to the site.
- Use the 6 Hazard Categories to identify all potential hazards associated with the activity.
- Act immediately on SPSAs to address observed hazards prior to starting and continuing any activities, especially as conditions change.



Hand tools left on the ground in the immediate work area



Hand tools stored off the ground in a designated container, out of the immediate work area