



We're drivers too.

SAFETY ALERT: FIRST AID INCIDENT (FAI), HAND INJURY, PAPATOETOE, NZ

Description: The driver of a small excavator requested that the spotter and labourer use a wheel barrow to collect an alternative spade adaptor¹ for the excavator. They then lifted the excavator spade attachment (approx 40KG) into a wheelbarrow to transfer it over to the excavator. On lowering the attachment into the wheelbarrow, one of the technician's fingers got caught in between a loose bolt on the excavator spade attachment and the wheelbarrow². When he felt the weight of the spade attachment pressing on his finger, he reacted instinctively and quickly pulled out his hand and in doing so it scraped a layer of skin off his finger through the glove. The use of gloves rated 4543 by both individuals significantly reduced the extent of this injury. First aid was provided on site by the site supervisor who cleaned the wound and dressed it up with an adhesive plaster.



OBSERVATIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

Insufficient pre-job planning

- The injured employee felt he needed to take a short cut due to a perceived authority of instruction given by the excavator operator who requested he wheel the attachment to the excavator
- Hazard ID/ Lack of Focus on task due to distraction; in addition, the JSA on manual handling was not reviewed

ROOT CAUSES

- 2a Correct way takes more time or requires more effort (In this incident, the correct way was to drive the excavator to the spade attachment and not move it by manual handling)
- 3c Employee perceived the need to take a short cut (Spotter and Labourer felt the excavator driver had seniority as he had been employed with the company longer and they did not escalate this matter to the project manager)
- 4e Lack of understanding of SH&E risks associated with task (Did not identify that the loose bolts are a hazard and allowed himself to become distracted while completing the task)

RECOMMENDATIONS: ALL PERSONAL FACTORS

RC #2a

- Conduct refresher training on correct interchange of excavator's attachment e.g. spade or others
- Conduct refresher coaching on-site regarding pre-job planning and identification of all equipment required

RC #3c

- Conduct refresher on always using last minute risk assessment including when following request from peer

RC #4e

- Conduct refresher for all construction site workers on hazard identification and mitigation for site specific task

LESSONS LEARNED - As this is the first time JCI had undertaken major construction works in New Zealand,

- additional time should be spent with the general contractor planning the works in advance including correct identification of equipment, conduct detailed hazard identification and identify alternate mitigation plans
- the use of mechanical lifting aids should have been considered and implemented on site
- it is essential to clearly communicate roles and responsibilities for all individuals on site to ensure everyone understand the escalation process in the event of queries or questionable decisions on site
- Complete a last minute risk assessment, stay focussed on the task at hand until completion and avoid any distractions

.....***you can't manage a risk you haven't identified***



& Think

So that Nobody Gets Hurt!