

Thumb Injury on Raft 8

A maintenance contractor sustained a serious thumb injury after striking it with a 4lb copper hammer while attempting to release a locking pin during crane maintenance work on Raft 8.

The injury required surgery and may become RIDDOR reportable.

The pictures on the right show what is believed to be the hand position of the contractor – note he was wearing protective gloves at the time of the accident.

Crane maintenance work is covered by a JSA and the contractors' risk assessment/method statement, HOWEVER, this documentation did not cover the hazards associated with the use of hand tools.

In hindsight, this work could have been conducted in a safer manner e.g. using a puller or by supporting the plates using a mole wrench.

Always conduct a Prepare & Prevent prior to starting work, particularly for infrequent tasks.

Does the JSA or Risk Assessment/Method Statement cover the activity to be carried out? Is there a safer method of doing the work? If in doubt, STOP and seek advice on the next step.

