

Safety Alert 25-75 Facial Injury from Pinch Bar

The following Safety Alert contains content from an external source which is relevant to MWH Treatment Operations

What Happened?

An ESH Stantec employee received major facial injuries when a pinch bar used for assistance in manoeuvring a large chamber cover struck him under recoil at a Sewerage Treatment Works in Durham.

The impact threw the IP against a Heras Panel with his safety helmet travelling at force over the fence. A large volume of blood was released from his nose / mouth area. The IP subsequently had surgery to a broken nose and fractures to his eye socket, lacerations to his face / nose resulting in a number of stitches being applied.

Initial review established that the works involved a suspended cover (held by chains to each corner) with the final lowering into position where it is believed that the bar may have been “nipped” under the edge of the cover resulting in the bar recoiling at excessive force under leverage direct onto the employee’s facial area.



Photo above shows the layout of the site. The IP had been standing approximately where the shovel is located (large quantity of blood on the floor).

Note: The shovel was placed there as a marker for this image and had no impact on the accident.

The chamber cover was suspended on a four-leg chain and being lowered into a recess within the concrete slab. Whilst assisting with guiding the cover, the bar was inserted in the gap between the cover and the concrete and subsequently may have slipped under the edge as it was lowered resulting in a violent spring back (similar to standing on a garden rake).

Actions:

- Personal positioning on any lifting / lowering tasks to be monitored – remember **HOSSAS (Hands off, Step Away, Safe Space)**
- Assistance on lifting operations to be reviewed – e.g. a tirlor or ratchet pull chains to be considered to locate after being lowered

