

Safety Alert 25-01 RIDDOR: Crushed Hand Injury

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

What Happened?

The task was to install a pump on to a raised concrete plinth and involved the lifting and positioning of the pump to align with pre-drilled bolt holes. 7 of the 8 bolts lined up well, but 1 was slightly out of alignment. The contractor requested help to align the final bolt using a length of timber to hammer into position. While the pump was resting on the final bolt, the IP placed their left hand in the 'RED ZONE' on the underside of the pump. The pump lowered suddenly and crushed the IP's hand resulting in several fractures to bones of the hand and fingers. As well as being a 'specified injury' for RIDDOR which requires surgery, this will likely result in a lengthy period where the IP is unable to carry out their normal duties.

Pictures



Photo 1: Post-incident re-enactment



Photo 2: Alternative angle

Immediate Corrective Action

- The task was immediately stopped and made safe. IP was taken to hospital.
- Mental Health first aid offered to witness by trained site manager.
- Toolbox Talk conducted to refresh the importance of keeping hands clear of RED Zones.
- Controls in RAMS and lift plan subject to comprehensive review and re-approval.

Action Required

- Identify RED ZONES for lifting activities and communicate using the RAMS and lift plan.
- Prior to any work involving contractors, carry out a talk safe to address task specific hazards.

