

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Metal Projectile Injuries 5 Repeat Occurrences

A hammer and chisel were used to break a bearing race. A small piece of metal broke off the chisel and embedded into the worker's forearm.

A hammer and chisel were used to remove a bearing race. The impact of the steel hammer on the hardened steel race caused a steel chip to be ejected and penetrate the worker's abdomen through their coveralls.

A worker was removing a bearing from a shaft with a hammer when a metal sliver was ejected and embedded into the worker's forearm.

A worker struck a sprocket with a hammer resulting in a metal piece being ejected. The metal shard penetrated the worker's abdomen through their coveralls.

A worker was using a hammer and chisel when a piece of metal broke off striking them in the ear resulting in laceration and bleeding.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Review incidents with your team highlighting that repeat occurrences have led to injuries and possibly unreported near misses.
- Identify areas on your site where this work occurs and consider ways to reduce the risk of injury.
- Explore safe alternatives to prevent steel-on-steel impacts, such as bearing pullers, polyurethane-jacketed dead-blow hammers, brass head hammers, or brass punches.
- Remember that tools like hammers, chisels, and punches are designed for specific tasks; avoid using them improperly.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

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