

SERIOUS EVENT REVIEW

Event date: October 2015

Improper Safe Work Practice / PPE / Communication



A sub-contractor was working to place concrete for a driveway. At approximately 9:00am the worker lifted the rebar at the edge along the form to allow concrete to settle underneath for proper placement within the concrete slab. The worker stated that while lifting the rebar another employee(s) had stepped on the rebar and the pressure caused the sharp end to cut his finger before he could release resulting in 7 stitches in the third finger of his right hand.

Immediate Cause:

Deviation of safe practice due to rushing

Sub-contractor grabbed the rebar on the sharp end to lift. The worker has 26 years of experience and states he knew the hazard present from the ends of the rebar being very sharp and would normally grab somewhere further from the end. He noticed the rebar wasn't staying at adequate height levels and his immediate reaction was to grab the end to pull it up before being covered by the concrete.

Contributing Factors:

Improper use PPE

Injured worker was not wearing gloves at the time of incident. The placing/finishing company had signed an agreement acknowledging the producer's PPE policy and the crew had been reminded of the PPE policy by the concrete supplier's supervisor before work.

Corrective and Preventative Actions:

Safety meetings to be held with Sub-contractors on safe practice to safely handle and lift rebar, rushing and communication with other workers.

Refine process to review policies and expectations at the beginning of the year.

Develop system to use safety compliance and performance as part of the process to establish seniority list.