



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL

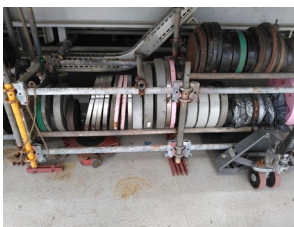


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Routine Tasks Still Have Serious Hazards

During routine weekly housekeeping activities, an employee was moving blind flanges when one unexpectedly bounced and struck the employee's left middle finger. The contact resulted in a laceration requiring medical treatment and sutures. The employee was wearing gloves, which reduced the severity of the injury but did not prevent it.



What Caused the Incident?

The blind was being manually handled and was not fully controlled during movement. The employee's hand was positioned within the line of fire and pinch-point area when the blind unexpectedly rebounded. Investigation determined that the hazards associated with this housekeeping task were not adequately identified prior to starting work because the task was viewed as low risk.

Key Lessons Learned

- Housekeeping is a task and requires hazard recognition before work begins.
- Keep hands and fingers out of pinch points and potential movement paths.
- Never place hands where materials can shift, swing, rebound, or fall.
- Stop and reassess when material movement becomes unpredictable.
- Gloves are the last line of defense and will not eliminate line-of-fire hazards.

Remember

Routine does not mean risk-free. Many hand injuries occur during simple, everyday tasks because hazards are overlooked. Before starting any task, take a moment to identify what could move, shift, bounce, or create a pinch point—and keep your hands out of the line of fire.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment.



SAFETY ALERT