



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 38-26

Date: June 17, 2026

Handrail Installation Pinch Point Injury

Incident Summary

During the installation of a handrail on a sub-cooler platform, one employee was working from a manlift while another employee was positioned on the platform assisting with alignment. The handrail had been lifted into position by crane, one bolt was installed, and the crane was disconnected. While attempting to align the remaining bolt holes, the handrail became bound and unexpectedly shifted. As the rail moved, it created a pinch point and caught the employee's right pinky finger between the handrail and the existing structure, resulting in an injury.

Key Findings

- The handrail was not positively restrained after the crane was disconnected.
- No secondary support was in place during final alignment activities.
- The Job Safety Environmental Analysis (JSEA) did not adequately identify pinch-point and stored-energy hazards associated with the task.
- Changing conditions during installation were not reassessed before proceeding with manual alignment.

Lessons Learned

- Never place hands or fingers between components that are being aligned, adjusted, or fitted together.
- Maintain positive control of materials until all connections are secure and the load is stable.
- Use secondary supports, tag lines, clamps, or other approved methods to prevent unexpected movement.
- Stop work and reassess hazards whenever conditions change or components become bound, misaligned, or difficult to install.
- Ensure JSEAs identify pinch points, stored energy, suspended loads, and temporary support requirements before work begins.

Required Actions

1. Review this Safety Alert with all crews performing structural, handrail, rigging, and installation work.
2. Reinforce pinch-point awareness during pre-job meetings and JSEA reviews.
3. Verify temporary supports and load-control methods remain in place until final installation is complete.
4. Supervisors shall ensure critical controls are discussed and field-verified prior to removing lifting devices or supports.

Remember: If a component can move unexpectedly, it can create a serious pinch-point hazard. Keep hands clear, maintain positive control of the load, and stop work whenever conditions change.

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

SAFETY ALERT

