

Lacerated thumb while installing splits



An exploration drill assistant sustained a thumb laceration while inserting the HQ splits into the HQ inner tube. The top split was being inserted when it became caught and the drill assistant's hand has slid up the edge of the split.

As he was wearing waterproof PPE gloves with a low cut resistance (a rating of 1 out of 5), the edge of the split has cut through these and lacerated the inside of his thumb.

The HQ splits are required due to the fractured nature of the ground. The fractured ground also leads to small particles wearing the edges of the splits potentially, resulting in a small area of the split having an edge that is not rounded or flat. This worn area may not appear to be sharp but when a lightly gripped hand is slid along it would cut through a waterproof glove.

You need to ensure that:

- **Risk assessments are conducted before any non-standard task is undertaken to identify potential hazards.**
- **Provide workers with suitable PPE (gloves) to reduce the potential for injury when conducting all tasks. In this instance, cut resistant gloves above class 3 may have avoided injury.**
- **Workers are trained and assessed as competent for all tasks. This includes identification of hazards before conducting maintenance tasks.**
- **Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify poor housekeeping in work areas which could expose workers to hazards.**

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

26 October 2018