

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 33

Date: 14 August 2020

Focus Group: Plant and Equipment Operators

Topic: Safe Machine Maintenance

Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: A machine operator, carrying out maintenance, was using a ratchet to loosen a bolt and his foot on the tool for leverage when his foot slipped off.

Injury Details: His shin struck against a metal surface causing a laceration that required four stitches – MTI.

Risk Awareness: For some common reasons, including over-tightening, nuts and fill plugs can be stubborn to loosen and remove. Applying force and/or using the wrong tool may give rise to a loss of balance or the tool slipping off, potentially causing harm from contact with the tools or some sharp or protruding object.

Safe Behaviours: Park the machine on level ground and de-energise it. Only proceed if you have the PPE, training, and authority. Use an appropriately sized tool and if the plug or nut doesn't budge call a mechanic. Cover any sharp edges with a thick blanket. Remember the three common factors that contribute to maintenance incidents:

- Inadequate planning and risk assessment.
- Poor housekeeping – a congested workspace e.g. tools left out to trip over, and
- Improvisation – because of wanting to get on and finish the work.

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)

