

Injury sustained while operating steel lifting magnet

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While preparing to transfer steel plates using a steel lifting magnet, a crew person was injured.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Line of fire

What happened?

The crew person attempted to adjust a magnet by releasing a locking lever that was located low and far from their reach. As they adjusted the lever, it recoiled suddenly because of the spring-loaded tension, hitting them in the face. They sustained a cut to the left cheek requiring fifteen stitches. It could have been worse: it might have been damaged or broken teeth or facial bones in this incident.

		
<i>Recoiling lever of the lifting magnet</i>	<i>Steel plates being moved</i>	<i>Faded Caution sticker</i>

Our member noted that a similar incident had occurred a year before, involving a different crew member, who suffered a minor cut on the chin when the handle of the same lifting magnet hit them.

Investigation revealed

- The lifting magnet was chosen for the task due to its perceived efficiency.
- The design of the operating lever meant that tension allowed it to spring back sharply.
- The lifting magnet normally underwent annual inspection but was not subject to regular maintenance, relying solely on user reports for faults.
- A similar incident happened a year ago.
- The original warning stickers, placed when the previous incident happened, had faded and became illegible.

Actions and discussion points

- Implement a regular inspection regime for lifting magnets that includes periodic inspections, fault reporting and replacement of faded warning stickers;
- Evaluate equipment efficiency before use: Is this the best tool for the job on this occasion?

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