

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0024
Subject:	Toppling of steel bar
Date	March 2007

Incident:

- Employee was moving steel bar material bundles (seven bundle stack) with overhead crane.
- When he lifted the top two bundles he noticed that the suspended load was unbalanced. He tried to rebalance the load by repositioning the suspended load on the original stack.
- As a result, the four bundles underneath toppled in his direction. The top bundle fell on his left foot.
- Employee was wearing steel-toed safety shoes with metatarsal protection but the incident resulted in amputation of phalanges and metatarsus on left foot (about 2/3 of foot).



Key Lessons:

- Material must be stored in designated areas (not in a tube storage rack as in this instance).
- Management is responsible for enforcing work procedures.
- Lack of hazard recognition.

Recommendations:

- Remove bar material from tube storage rack and ensure material is stored in designated areas.
- Ensure appropriate and standardized dunnage is available.
- Improve training and procedures for stacking and storing bar material.
- Reinforce hazard recognition to employees.

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