

SAFETY ALERT

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0034
Subject:	Crush injury to hand in Pan Brake
Date:	August 2008

Incident:

- Significant crush injury sustained to an assistant's hand during dual operation of a Pan Brake (sheet metal folder).
- During dual operation of the Pan Brake the operator activated the lever to begin clamp operation.
- At the same time, unbeknownst to the clamp operator, the sheet metal slipped and the assistant put their hand under the clamp (automatic reflex) to readjust the sheet and consequently got their hand crushed under the clamp.



Key Lessons:

- Reliance on procedures/training is not always sufficient to prevent an accident.
- The plant was older and existing guarding was not sufficient to prevent an accident.

Recommendations:

- Review all plant machinery to ensure adequate plant guarding and/or investigate alternate safeguards where physical guards are not possible (such as light curtains, incremental/intermittent clamping, foot pedals for dual operations etc).
- Review procedures for dual operation tasks and ensure employees are specifically trained (and training documented) for all tasks requiring more than one person.
- Ensure adequate supports/bracing and/or clamps are in place to prevent material slipping for all tasks requiring manual assistance/intervention.

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