

# SAFETY ALERT

## Incident Title:

Hand Injuries

## Date of Incident:

May 2017

## Incident Description and Details:

Two workers sustained hand injuries while undertaking hazardous manual tasks.

- A worker was injured while using a manual star picket driver to drive a star picket into the ground. The picket driver came off the picket and made contact with his hand during the downward thrust.
- A second worker was injured while manually moving a steel post, when the inner shaft and the outer casing of the post pinched the top of his finger.

In both incidents, work was stopped, first aid was administered and the injured workers were taken to a local medical centre for a medical assessment.



Fingertip Injury – Finger caught in between inner shaft and outer casing of the post.

Hand Injury – Hand was punctured by top of star picket during the downward thrust.

## Recommendations/Lessons

- Assess the risks involved with hazardous manual tasks before commencing works;
- Implement preventative controls such as using:
  - appropriate equipment for the task, this may include a petrol post driver;
  - driver handle guards on picket drivers;
  - tools or lifting devices that eliminate the strain or pinch points; and
  - appropriate personal protective equipment for the task including gloves.