

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

Background

On Saturday 29th July 2017 an individual sustained an injury to their fore finger on their Right Hand from from a Disc Cutter that damaged the nerves and tendon on the finger at the first knuckle.

As a result the individual had to undergo surgery where the tendon and nerve on the finger both required 2 the finger required and 6 stitches.

Physiotherapy will be required to regain full use of his finger.

The individual has not been able to work for at least a week as a result of this injury and at this point it is not known when he will be fit to resume full duties.



The accident occurred when removing track on the first shift when scrapping out. The rail had been burned but the burn had not gone completely through the rail so a Disc Cutter was being used to finish off the cut which is standard practice. The IP selected a Disc Cutter from two that were lying trackside and started it once he had checked that it was would power up he immediately switched it off again. He did not let it run up to full speed.

Whilst the disc was still spinning although slowing down he picked up the Disc Cutter with his left hand and as he swung it up onto his left shoulder he brought his right hand up to balance it and his hand touched the Disc resulting in the injury.

If the individual had waited until the disc had stopped rotating before picking it up then this accident would not have occurred.

All hand tools must be used as instructed during the training in their use.

When using any hand tools they must be fully powered down and all moving parts must be stationary before carrying or transporting them.