

# Safety Flash

## Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 10/19/2018

### The Incident

Using a tunnel buggy, a crew was transporting sections of boiler pipe to a dump hopper for disposal. As one worker lifted a section of piping from the buggy to put in the hopper, he lost his grip on the piping and injured his arm as he tried to catch it.

### The Causes

#### Primary Causes:

- The worker had been assigned to move buggies that morning and for the previous 2-3 days, and this was his first time unloading sections of pipe.
- For unknown reasons, he decided to help others load piping into the hopper.

#### Possible Causes:

- The section of piping had extra steel on one end, which caused the load to be unbalanced.
- The worker did not realize that the section of piping was unbalanced.
- He had to lift the load at chest level to put it in the hopper.
- He was wearing leather gloves which may have allowed the piping to slip from his grip.
- Each piece of piping was about 7 feet long and weighed about 100 pounds.
- The work area was about 90°F, which is normal working conditions.
- The worker had been assigned to move buggies that morning and for the previous 2-3 days, and this was his first time unloading sections of pipe.
- For unknown reasons, he decided to help others load piping into the hopper.

### Prevent It

- Make sure STACs prepared by crews and individuals address the hazards of each task and revise as tasks change.
- Make sure workers understand their assigned tasks.
- Evaluate methods to minimize manual material handling.
- Investigate pre-work stretching programs.
- Consider rotating crew members for long-term material handling tasks.

### Action Plan

- The effective use of pre-task planning and STACs to identify and communicate tasks and hazards at the crew level will be reviewed with superintendents.
- The incident will be discussed at the next superintendent meeting and will be disseminated to all projects.
- Material handling options will be considered when planning work.
- Stretching programs will be evaluated for use on jobsites.

### Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.