

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 6/24/2024

The Incident

An associate was attempting to enlarge the opening in the center of a fender washer with a unibit. Channel locks were utilized to safely secure the washer with their right hand, while applying pressure on the drill with left hand. Washer kicked out of channel locks, causing the unibit to strike associate's right hand between their thumb and pointer finger.

The Causes

- A vise was not utilized to secure fender washer.
- Associate utilized channel locks, which put his hand in close proximity from unibit.
- Correct size fender washer was not utilized for specific task, resulting in associate having to expand opening of washer.

Prevent It

- If a vise was utilized to safely secure fender washer, instead of channel locks, associate's hand would have been placed within a safe distance from unibit.
- If the correct sized fender washer was provided, this would have prevented associate from having to utilize unibit to expand opening of washer.

Action Plan

- Provide proper training on specific tool for the task at hand.
- Supply correct fender washers with kit to alleviate future issues.
- Supply vise grips to job site.

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.