



Work Related Hand Injuries

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Case 1 Fingertip amputation

- JJ was on the job for 3 days as a material handler. He had just completed all his training. His job entailed moving bins that contain product that weighed on average 50-60 pounds. He had to stack these bins 5 high on a pallet. He was trying to impress his new boss and moving at a rapid rate. Half way through his shift he began to fatigue due to the heat but did not stop to get a drink. He began to get sloppy with hand placement and pinched his fingertip between 2 bins.

Case 2 Ray Amputation

Sam had been with the company for 15 years. He knew the machinery he worked on inside and out. He worked on a machine that punched holes in steel. The punching process caused tiny metal fragments which periodically built up making it hard to push new metal pieces through the machine. On average he had to clean the machine 4x per day. This was a time consuming process that required a lock out, tag out procedure. Over the years he figured out a process of sweeping the machine with his finger and removing some debris. He could therefore decrease the lock out tag out episodes and increase his production rate and his pay.

One day he was not so lucky.

Case 3 Thumb crush

- Samantha job requires her to push a large metal dowel through a round hole using a 5 pound mallet. Today she missed the dowel and hit her thumb.

Case 4 Flexor tendon laceration

- Eve's job is to cut meat at a processing plant. She was in a rush and forgot to put on her cut resistant gloves. While holding a piece of meat she sliced her finger.