



Incident Description: On December 30, 2008 a Loader was preparing to load a lube oil railcar. Four of the eye-bolts were loosened with an impact gun and unlatched. The 2 bolts nearest the handle were loosened but were allowed to remain in the upright position while the railcar de-pressured. One of the 2 bolts was equipped with a safety collar. After allowing the railcar to de-pressure several minutes, the Loader began to further loosen one of the remaining bolts with the impact gun and the hatch flew open. The little finger of the Loader's left hand was pinched between the hatch and the impact gun. The employee was taken to a local hospital and received medical treatment.

LEARNINGS

- Car arrived with ~ 10 psig air pressure – should have been near 0.
- Procedure did not address handling excess pressure
- Safety eye bolt was loosened past it's ability to function as designed
- Normalization of deviation to procedure due to variation of railcar configurations

INCIDENT PREVENTION / IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

- Communicate incident to providers/users of railcar to prevent recurrence of railcars arriving with pressure
- Revise inspection sheet to capture incoming pressure of railcars
- Provide loaders with training on hazards of stored energy
- Revise procedure to safely de-pressure railcar
- Perform at least 6 field audits to assure practice meets procedure

The complete investigation will be distributed later this week.