

Safety Alert



March 20, 2009

Pneumatic Impact Tool Injury

Employee was using an Ingersoll Rand pneumatic impact to tighten bolts. When he pulled the trigger on the impact, the air hose along with the connection fitting was blown off of the bottom of the tool. Air hose whipped around and hit employee on the left cheek causing some bruising and skin abrasions.

What we know:

- The investigation found that the threads on the impacts inlet bushing had been stripped out due to the movement of the air hose associated with everyday use.
- The employee was on the structural steel crew performing a bolt up of the structure.
- He had been using the impact gun for half a day when the fitting came off the end.
- The vibration of the gun while in use, as well as the movement with the hose attached firm to the gun, caused the inlet bushing to come loose during operation.

What we can do to prevent similar or further incidents:

- The equipment should be pre-inspected prior to use.
- After the swivels are installed, employees working with this type of tool will inspect three times a day to verify the fitting is tight.
- All new impact guns will be ordered with the swivel fittings installed or installed when they are received on the project.
- The project supervisors will monitor compliance with these requirements daily.

