

ACCIDENT OR INJURY ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Date of Incident:

Date of Injury Report:

Employee: , Equipment Operator

Other Employee(s) Involved:

Field or SC:

Location of incident: PA

Supervisor:

Attendance:

Date of Meeting:

Unsafe Acts		Unsafe Conditions		Other Issues	
By-passing safety devices		Congested work area		Hazard not identified	X
Drug or alcohol use		Defective tools/equipment		Improper maintenance	
Failure to warn or secure		Excessive noise		Inadequate equipment	
Guards not used		Fire or explosion hazard		Inadequate job planning	
Horseplay		Hazardous substances		Inadequate supervision	
Improper lifting		Improper material storage		Inadequate workplace inspection	
Improper loading or placement		Improper tool or equipment		Insufficient supervisor training	
Improper PPE or PPE not used	X	Inadequate fall protection		Insufficient worker training	
Improper work technique	X	Inadequate guarding of hazards		Lack of written procedures or policies	
Operating at improper speeds		Inadequate ventilation		Poor process design	
Operating without authority		Insufficient knowledge of job		PPE unavailable	
Safety rule violation		Insufficient lighting		Safety rules not enforced	
Servicing machinery in motion		Poor housekeeping		Unrealistic scheduling	
Unnecessary haste		Poor work location design or layout		Unsafe design or construction	
Unsafe act of others		Slippery conditions		Other:	

Description of Incident:

While renewing a service, the crew broke a 2 ft. long section out of the side of a 6" clay drain tile. Prior to repairing the damaged tile, the Operator reached inside to remove some loose stones and debris that fell in to the tile when it broke. As he removed his hand, he cut his thumb and severed about 50% of a tendon on a sharp piece of tile that was on the inner diameter. The cut on his hand was about 1 1/2 inches long; clean and deep. The crew described the broken tile as being nearly razor-sharp. The employee was fortunate the tendon was not completely severed. He received stitches and his hand is in a cast until the injury heals.

Root cause(s) of incident:

- (1) Hazard not identified. The employee did not recognize the potential hazard associated with placing his hand inside a broken drain tile. He has 23 years experience and has never encountered a clay tile as sharp as this one. The sharp inner-diameter could not be seen from the employee's vantage point.
- (2) Improper work technique/PPE not used. Placing his unprotected hand and arm inside a broken tile to clear debris when he could not see inside the tile was not a proper work technique.

Action Plan To Prevent Recurrence

- (1) Any time work needs to be performed on a clay drain tile, employees must wear appropriate PPE including leather gloves (or equivalent). When reaching inside a broken tile or in to any area where there is a potential cutting hazard, employees must wear long sleeves in addition to hand protection.
- (2) To minimize the risk of a cutting injury, employees should break out the segment of clay tile that needs to be replaced prior to clearing debris from the inner diameter. This will provide more space and enable employees to inspect the inner diameter prior to reaching inside.
- (3) If possible, use a tool to remove debris from inside the tile.

Page 2 of 2: Small Cut – Big Consequence

Completed by: _____ **Date:** _____
Employee: _____ **Date:** _____
Supervisor: _____ **Date:** _____
Manager: _____ **Date:** _____

SUBMIT COMPLETED REPORT TO AREA SUPERINTENDENT (Copy to: Risk Management Dept)



Image taken 5 days after injury. Cut was clean and deep – severed about 50% of tendon in thumb.



Employee's hand and wrist casted to keep tendon immobilized.