



# Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 11-19

**Issued: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011**

**Subject: AB hit by foreign object during dismantling of a kenter-link**

3 ABs were engaged with dismantling of a kenter-link on the quarterdeck of an AHTS vessel.

- AB 1 (IP) was holding a crow bar for positioning of the chain and kenter-link
- AB 2 was controlling a homemade “nail punch” (See photo)
- AB 3 was handling a sledgehammer

When the “nail punch” was hit by the sledgehammer – a small piece broke off the “nail punch” and hit AB 1 in the thigh like a projectile. At first the IP, who stood at a distance of 1m, felt that he was hit by something but didn't pay too much attention to this. However, approx. 10 minutes later he felt his leg was getting “wet” and he also start feeling pain.

An examination revealed that the IP was most probable hit by a foreign object from the “nail punch”. It was not possible to remove; neither localise the foreign object in the thigh, as it had penetrated to deep into the tissue. The IP was sent ashore for medical treatment.

At the hospital the foreign object was removed and the wound was treated. The IP was not seriously injured but he could not return to normal duty wherefore the incident is classified as a Lost Time Injury (LTI)

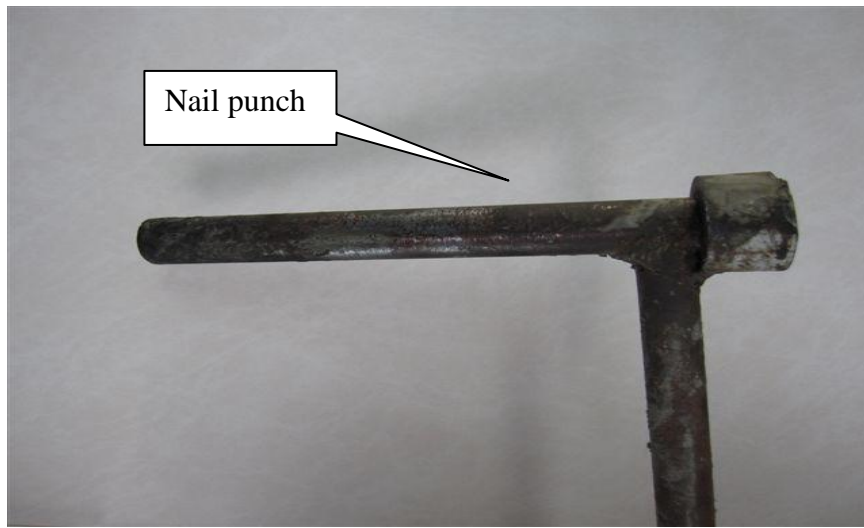
Although the IP was not seriously injured the potential for serious injury is definitely present.

## **Safety Measures in place:**

- Helmet, safety shoes, gloves, safety goggles
- Risk Assessment

## **Lesson learned:**

- All homemade “nail punches” and other homemade drilling jars shall be removed unless their quality has been proved or certified



Homemade tools should be actively discouraged and if unavoidable must be fully compliant with PUWER.