

## Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 14-07

Issued: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Subject: Grease Injection into small finger

Operator was using a hand held grease gun to lubricate various grease points on earth moving plant.

Operator only felt a sharp prick to little finger and on inspection noticed a small hole. On squeezing finger approximately one teaspoon of grease was ejected. N.B. – Gloves were not being used at the time.

Medical attention was sought resulting in a lengthy operation and removal of a vein in the forearm. This was replaced with an artificial vein.

At this time the operation appears successful however constant medical monitoring and surgery care is paramount to a successful rehabilitation.



### Key Safety Learning's

- Inspect equipment prior to use to ensure it is in sound working order with no cuts, damage.
- Check and tighten all fittings.
- Wear suitable protective gloves when using any equipment with stored energy potential.
- Even relatively low pressure equipment has the potential to inflict Hydraulic Injection injury.
- Grease gun hose was not a strengthened hydraulic pressure (woven/mesh) type but of rubberised compound only.

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