

## **SAFETY ALERT**

# **Shared Learning's**

### **INCIDENT TITLE:**

Puncture Wound On Hand from Farm Gate

### **TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017 1000 hrs

### **INCIDENT DETAIL :**

A contractor completed thermal imaging at a wind turbine. While driving to the next turbine the contractor had to open a double farm gate to pass through. Whilst closing one half of the double gate, the other half started to swing in the strong wind. The contractor put out his other hand to stop the gate from opening and a protruding piece of #8 wire pierced into the palm of his hand. The initial pain was short lived and the puncture wound appeared minor.



### **INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :**

The protruding section of wire was bent sideways to prevent this potentially happening to the next person and the hand was cleaned with a sterile wipe. The team proceeded to carry on with the days' work. Less than an hour later the team ceased work due to high winds and returned to the Service Building where the event was reported to the Site Maintenance Service Manager. By the time the work party returned back to their contractor depot the hand injury had begun to swell and movement to the fingers was limited. The injured party was taken to the local hospital and referred to a plastic surgeon who carried out surgery on the hand. A hematoma was found which was putting pressure on the tendons.

### **LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:**

This is a timely reminder that no matter how small the injury appears it is worth having it checked out if you have any doubt of complications.

This event is still under investigation.

Initial Actions and Recommendations are:

- Audit all gates across assets to capture current state.
- Review the requirement for a consistent gate latching system across the portfolio.
- Implement 'gate inspections' to the current monthly IQP civil inspection check sheet.
- Implement an internal annual gate audit.
- Reiterate the importance of the non-negotiable Stop if walking by an unsafe situation. 'I see it I manage it'

### **PHOTO:**



*Wound at time of injury*



*Post Surgery -12 stitches*

The Corporate Safety and Health Team are currently working on systems to support the above learnings. If interested in viewing the full investigation report for this incident, it can be found in:

Safety Manager Id Number **784829**. If you do not have access to Safety manager contact a member of Meridian's CSH team.



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