

Hand Laceration

What happened?

During the lathe parting off process of a irregularly shaped 250mm diameter piece of pipe, the parting tool caught the inside edge of the pipe causing the cut piece to flick sideways landing on the tool stock.

Another staff member was supporting the piece ready for it to part using a wooden dowel of which the dowel was drawn sideways catching the persons hand between the part and tool post. A laceration was received with surgery required to repair a tendon and a minimum of 4 weeks off work.

What did we learn?

Regular repetitive work can lead to complacency “a side effect of comfort”.

Machining Workshop

This parting process is common across all sizes of steel bar and pipe however:

1. Larger diameter irregularly shaped pipework requires additional controls to manage risk. One alternative is to support with the tailstock or remove the piece and make the last cut using a band saw or grinder blade
2. Additional peer/supervisory support may have helped in this situation to discuss the best process to use

We have since updated safe work practices and signage to confirm the requirement to peer review any parting of irregularly shaped items, whilst reviewing other regular workshop practices to ensure current risk controls are still adequate



Hand Injury received



Final resting location of off cut on tool post