

Embedded nail into Thumb from nail gun

What happened?

During the construction of an office refurbishment the builder was nailing timber framing with a nail gun. The nail glanced off the timber which had hardened “rings” at the junction which deflected the nail downwards and into his thumb.

IP was taken for medical treatment with the nail still embedded into the thumb. The thumb was x-rayed and the nail removed.

Wound was dressed and IP was placed on alternative duties to prevent infection.

Location: Karapiro

What did we learn?

The reason the nail had deflected off the corner of the wood was because the wood had “rings” due to the ageing. This results in the wood hardening, which can easily deflect a nail fired from a nail gun.

Good practice is to ensure care is taken around wood selection so that no rings or wood knots are near where joints are being nailed, even if this results in some wood wastage.

