

Risk Management – remember the basics - Hierarchy of Controls

Upon the completion of a 25 Ton forklift rebuild, in order to reverse the machine out of a workshop a back tow pin that was touching the floor needed to be brought up to safely move the machine (difficult to remove the pin fully at this point).

This was discussed in a morning toolbox with the *administration control* to remind any person to lift this pin so the forklift could reverse.

Using this control would have added another risk to harm in that a person physically would be placing themselves in danger in order to pick up and hold the pin.

The work was paused and a reassessment took place to generate engagement with the staff on what higher level controls may be used.

A vice grip in a toolbox nearby was the ‘right tool for the job’, an isolation solution and made sure a higher level of control was in place

Key Learnings:

1. Where possible, capture and remove items such as these during initial risk assessments (eliminate the risk)
 2. Human interaction with machinery needs to be a last resort
 3. Administration controls such as verbal instructions have a higher risk of failing:
 - a) we may forget the instruction
 - b) someone else may be allocated the job and the administration control does not get shared
 - c) the instruction can sometimes be misunderstood
- Always look to achieve that higher level of risk management
 - Use practical examples such as this for staff training
 - Celebrate good risk management and continue to review your current risk controls

Hazard – pin on ground



Vice Grip as an Isolation Control

