

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 15-05

Issued: 5th February 2015

Subject: Cut Finger changing Mop Head

One of our crew has had a very painful accident that caused him to cut his finger.

He was preparing to carry out a routine cleaning task and was in the process of changing a sponge mop head. Whilst attempting to fit a new mop head he saw that one of the retaining channels had glue in it which was preventing it from fitting the holder. He tried to clear out the glue with his pocket knife and in doing so he slipped and sustained a cut to the left index finger.



The cut was diagonally across the index finger (between the arrows in the photo) and was quite deep, partially severing the flexor tendon and damaging the associated nerve. A surgical procedure was required to repair the damage.

The crew has reconstructed how they believe the accident occurred in this photo.

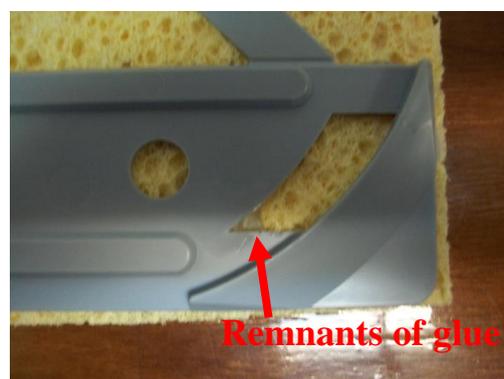


This is a typical case of lack of management of change; the IP deviated from the original intent to carry out routine cleaning duties to fix a problem with the mop head with the tools and facilities to hand without recognizing the inherent risks of the new task.

The IP should have rejected the faulty mop head and got another one rather than trying to remove the obstruction i.e. invoke the Stop the Job policy. In addition the faulty mop head should have been retained in its original condition so that it can be returned to the supplier for further investigation to prevent reoccurrence of this situation

Please check all stocks of this type of mop head on board, email details to QHSE and quarantine any that have the same fault and cannot be fitted to the handle without modification for return to the supplier. As soon as we are aware of the extent of this problem we will take the issue up with the manufacturer via the supplier

Please ensure these matters are discussed at your next HSE meeting and the content of this alert is shared with both crews onboard.



Your co-operation in keeping your working environment safe is appreciated.

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