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**INCIDENT ALERT**

An ironworker was engaged in the process of erecting a steel structure. His task involved receiving steel “I” beams delivered to his location by crane and bolting the beams into position. He was standing on a beam approximately 14 feet above a lower concrete floor. As the crane operator was lowering one beam to his location he reached up with his right hand to guide it to the proper connection point. He had placed his left hand near the connection point to steady himself. As he was guiding the beam it struck his left hand,pinching it between the beam and connection point and resulting in a laceration. He administered first aid and went back to work. After shift, he drove himself to a medical facility where he received five stitches. His doctor released him to return to modified duty.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

As we have seen in many past injuries, the placement of a worker’s off hand plays a large part in the potential for injury. It is imperative to keep your hands well away from any potential pinch points. A momentary lapse of attention resulted in this worker’s left hand being placed in a position that would allow it to be struck by a steel beam. Fortunately the ironworker was wearing heavy work gloves, which no doubt helped to minimize his hand injury. 

Construction workers earn their livelihood using their brains, experience, and training. They put all of these together and accomplish their work using their hands. Awareness of the location of body parts in relation to materials being handled and installed are critical to successfully completing tasks injury free.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Discuss task planning activities with your contractors. Ask if body positioning and consideration of pinch points are expected topics of discussion during the planning process.

2. Watch for activities that may result in pinched body parts during your safety walkthroughs. Call attention to any possible pinch points to help the workers increase their awareness. Ask if they have considered pinch, crush, or nip points during their task planning.

3. Encourage your contractors to share and discuss this incident alert with their workers.

**Distribution:**
All CPO Staff

REV. (DATE)