Prepared by Ron Fouty
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INCIDENT ALERT

An elevator installer and his helper were assigned to work in an elevator pit routing wire through the area. The pit they were to work in was connected to another elevator shaft which was operational at the time. They had used the permanently installed ladder to access the pit, but needed an extension ladder in order to reach the area he was routing the wire through. The ladder was set up and the helper climbed to position and began to work. At around 11:30 he was preparing to exit the area. He climbed down the ladder and stepped from the ladder rung to a support beam, intending to next step to the floor of the pit and cross to the permanent ladder in order to exit. While standing on the beam and turning to step down he placed his right hand on a steel beam that separated the two elevators. His hand passed through the safety net that had been installed just as the adjacent elevator was arriving at the bottom floor. The elevator struck his hand, lacerating his right index finger and tearing off the finger nail. He was taken to a nearby emergency room where he received five stitches and was released to return to restricted duty.

LESSONS LEARNED

The helper was being directly supervised by a journeyman elevator mechanic. Neither the journeyman nor the helper recognized the hazard they created when they positioned the ladder so they would have his back to the operating elevator. The team repositioned the ladder so they would not be placing themselves near the operating elevator while working in the pit. They also installed an additional temporary ladder that would allow them to exit the pit from a location that was well away from the adjacent elevator.

Recognizing exposure to potential injuries is the critical element when developing task specific hazard analyses. It is imperative that when developing task plans your observations include not only the immediate work area and your personal tasks but the surrounding conditions that may result in an exposure to injury.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ask your contractor about how they manage job hazard analysis and task planning for common daily tasks. Ask how workers are included in the task planning and job hazard analysis process. Encourage your contractors to help train their employees in identifying common hazards associated with daily tasks.

2. Watch for tasks that may result in similar injuries during your walk through. Are workers performing their tasks around moving equipment? If so, what precautions have been taken to assure they will not be exposed to a potential injury? Do their task plans include methods of protection? Are the methods of protection, in your opinion, adequate?

3. Share this Incident Alert with your contractor and ask them to share it with their workers.

Distribution:
All CPO Staff

REV. (DATE)