



Safety Alert #67

Correct Use of Pneumatic Torque Tools

Incident Description

A tyre service person was using a pneumatic torque tool to remove the wheel nuts on a Front End Loader tyre and rim assembly. The length of the socket and tool combined was such that the head of the tool was positioned inside the rim base, thus creating a pinch-point near the inner of the gutter section. The tyre service person used one hand to support the tool, whilst the other was on the trigger. During operation the tyre service person's hand was caught between the head of the tool and the rim base. The tyre service person was wearing PPE (gloves), however sustained lacerations between his 4th and 5th fingers, later requiring 4 stitches.

Findings

1. The tyre service person positioned his hands incorrectly during the operation of the pneumatic torque tool.
2. The configuration (length) of the tooling created a hazard.



Recommendations

1. Ensure that the length (extension) of the pneumatic torque tool allows the operator to position hands beyond the outer edge of the wheel/rim.
2. Ensure that only certified sockets, extensions, and torque tools are used.
3. If the tool is of a considerable weight, use a certified tool gantry to support the weight of the tool.
4. Ensure that the torque tool has a current Calibration chart with corresponding Serial Number.

Eliminate All Unsafe Acts & Conditions.

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