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Safety Lessons Learned Accident Abstract

Accident Type: NEAR MISS MISHAP: Laborer struck by whipping Airline coupling. **(DRAFT)**

Injury: Contusion on left ankle

Damage: No damage to Government property

Type of Work: Jack Hammering Concrete



DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

At approximately 1000 on 27 Feb 2007 a local national mason was using a paving breaker (jack hammer) to excavate through concrete for a drain line. The airline coupling attached to the hammer broke, whipped around and struck the operator on the ankle. Only minor injuries with no lost time. He received two days light duty.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ The old coupling broke due to stress/metal fatigue. (Upon visual inspection of the coupling, no physical/impact damage is evident)

INDIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ Complacency in practice/procedures.

ROOT CAUSE:

- ◆ Failure to perform proper maintenance. The paving breaker was permanently assigned to the Mason shop and was not inspected by the tool room on a regular basis.



LESSONS LEARNED:

- ◆ All equipment that is permanently issued to shops need to be brought to the tool room for scheduled inspections and maintenance in addition to the operators daily operational check prior to use.
- ◆ Situational awareness is essential in maintaining a safe work environment, and employees must pay attention to the work at hand throughout the workday.

YOUR SAFETY CONTACT IS...BUC(SCW) Bankey X1602