Shared Learning

Finger Injury - concrete coring barrel

What happened?

On the 7th July there was an incident that resulted in an operative sustaining a significant injury which required them to undergo corrective surgery.

Following the completion of the sampling hole, an electric drill and attached coring assembly (approx 1.2 meters long, weighing approx 8Kg) was left standing upright on the coring barrel. The drilling operator had returned to his van to return a water container and collect the necessary tools to strip the coring drill assembly. The site engineer (IP) proceeded to enter the immediate work area to collect samples from the hole. Whilst getting down on all fours next to the sample hole it is understood that the engineer unintentionally made contact with the unsecured coring drill which resulted in the drill to fall over, trapping the engineer's little finger between the footpath kerb and the extension rod between the electrical drill and the coring bit.

What was done correctly and what went wrong?

The drill assembly was purposely not laid down because the operative did not want to cause a trip hazard in the limited space of the work area but the potential of the tool falling over had not been identified as a hazard.

What can we learn?

1. Task familiarity has potentially resulted in unintentional poor practices becoming the accepted practices.
2. All tasks should be appropriately risk assessed and reflect the actual activities being carried out by site personnel.
3. All equipment, including hand held power tools within the workplace should be adequately secured at all times when not in use or whilst temporarily unattended.

> **Please consider these 3 take-away points as part of a review of your working practises. All accidents provide us with the opportunity to reflect on what we do and improve the way we work so everyone goes home safely.**

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Thank you

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