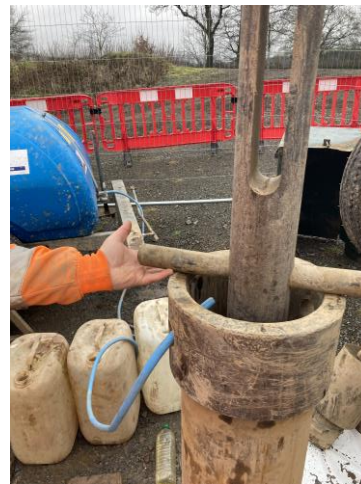


Description of task: A cable percussion drilling sub-contractor to SOCOTEC was tapping casing into the ground using the conventional tapping bar/sinker bar technique.

What went wrong? During the process of adding casing a tapping bar can begin to bend. To prevent the tapping bar from bending to the point of destruction, it is common practice for the drilling support operative to turn the bar. The drilling support operative (IP) placed their hands on the bar while the lead driller was performing the tapping process and their finger was trapped between the tapping bar and the casing. This resulted in the loss of the nail and skin from the tip of the IP's finger. The IP was wearing gloves at the time. The IP received first aid at location and was taken to hospital and received stitches. The finger nail was permanently lost.



Rig set up



Reconstruction of incident

Lessons Learned:

- To prevent entrapment/entanglement, SOCOTEC RAMS clearly state:
 - Lead Driller and Drilling Support Operative to establish an agreed system of hand and verbal signals when pulling or adding to the drill string
 - Lead driller to operate rig only when Drilling Support Operative has indicated that it is safe to do so
 - The Lead Driller must be able to see, without any obstruction, the hands and feet of the Drilling Support Operative at all times
 - Non-authorized personnel are prohibited from entering the working area whilst drilling is being carried out
- Always seek advice from your supervisor or line manager if you are unsure on any of the above points
- All incidents and near misses are to be reported to the incident helpline or via the app on your mobile device.
- We would like to remind employees that the number for SOCOTEC's Incident Report Helpline has recently changed, to report an incident, please call **01327 810666**.