

EVENT LEARNING

Safety & Sustainable Development

No.017

Incident Date / Time: 22nd July 2014 @ 15.00 hours
Location: Selby Swing Bridge
Works Taking Place / Incident Type: Rivet busting / Accident resulting in damaged tooth and mouth
Issued By: Safety and Sustainable Development Team
Project Name / Number: Selby Swing Bridge / 111740
For the attention of: All Scotland and North East

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

A rivet head sheared off, hit an adjacent steel stiffener and then ricocheted and struck an operative on the left side of his mouth causing a laceration and chipped tooth. The operative was using a rivet buster to remove a rivet head and working above eye level. Although the operative was wearing his visor correctly, the bottom section of his neck and face was exposed as he tilted his head to carry out the task and the rivet head bounced under the visor.

CAUSES

- There were no effective measures to prevent the rivet head ricocheting off adjacent steel work e.g. sandbags to deaden the impact of sheared rivet heads
- The length of the visor was not adequate to provide sufficient protection when used in this position e.g. a chin guard attached to the visor to protect neck and lower face.



The reader is required to take action where appropriate to implement the following:

- Where project works involves removing rivets, what measures will you consider to prevent uncontrolled movement of rivet heads as they are removed?
- What risks will be reflected in Work Package Plans and brought to awareness in Task Briefs?
- How will suitable PPE be identified and made available to prevent unwanted injury?

