

# Lessons Learned



— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

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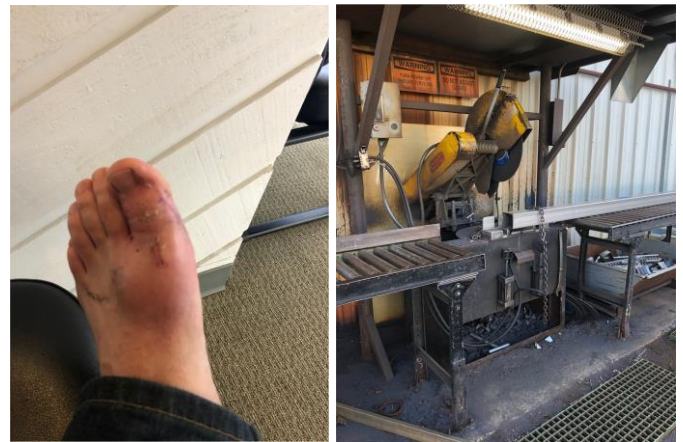
Region: Kennewick

Project: Industrial Shop

Incident Title: Dropped Material

## Summary

The employee was using a chop saw to cut a 20-foot-long piece of 4 inch by 4 inch piece of tube steel down to 15.5 feet. The finished 15.5 piece weighed about 180 pounds and was rolled onto a skid which was suspended waist high on the forks of the forklift. As the cut tube steel was being transferred, the far end fell between the gap of the skid and the rollers. This caused the tube steel to drop 3.5 feet, reverberate up the piece and bounce the other end out of his hand. When it bounced out of his hand, it fell on his foot which resulted in a fractured big toe. Surgery was required to set the bones.



## What Went Right?

- Employee was wearing steel toed boots. Without the boots the surgeon suggested the toe would have been lost.
- Employee received training and was using the correct controls for the chop saw.
- Employee reported the injury immediately

## What Went Wrong?

- One person was handling a 180-pound piece of material.
- Two people had been assigned to do the work but there was a change in work scope and the other person had to leave. No one replaced him and the injured employee was working alone with heavy and awkward material.

## Lessons Learned

- **Steel toed shoes greatly reduced his injury severity. PPE is the last line of defense but is there to help protect you.**
- **Get help when moving equipment that is over 50 pounds and/or is awkward.**
- **When there is a change in work scope, stop and re-evaluate if the controls in place are still adequate. Plan your work, work your plan.**