

Lessons Learned

Date: 9/21/2023	Region: National Facility Service – Industrial
Project: Lamb Weston	Incident Title: Sharp Metal Cuts through Leather Gloves

Summary	Picture
<p>Apollo team members were tasked with pulling and replacing a shattered bearing off of a shaft of a piece of equipment. The job was an emergency call from a customer who had a production line down due to the equipment malfunction. Apollo was called in at 4:30 p.m. The job was critical for the production facility.</p> <p>While removing the damaged bearing pieces the employee began removing metal shards while wearing leather gloves. The metal was covered in grease and it was hard to see how the metal was orientated. It was unknown that bearing race was shattered and had many sharp edges but as the employee pulled on the metal, he suffered a laceration to his right pinky finger that cut through his leather glove.</p> <p>Worried about the contamination from the organic material and grease, the employee sought medical treatment for his laceration. Three stitches were given in the local emergency room.</p>	

What Went Right?	What Went Wrong?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supervisor and employee provided first aid for the wound. The employee was concerned about infection, so he went to see a medical professional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee was wearing the wrong rated PPE for the hazard present in his tasks. Assumptions were made about the condition of the bearing and metal. An assessment of the PPE was not made, employee was using leather gloves because that is what he is used to wearing for mechanical work.

Lessons Learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leather Gloves are good for certain tasks and situations, but they offer very little cut protection. Even with production facilities being down, it is still faster to make sure tasks are done safely and correctly. The injury caused the employee to spend the entire shift in the emergency room. He was 1/3 of the crew. The injury cost 33% of the labor force on an emergency job. The employee assumed because it was past 7 p.m. that the emergency room would be the only place to seek treatment. Many clinics are open until 8-9 p.m. and treat minor injuries like this one.