

Distributed Energy UK&I

Safety Heads Up

Creating an incident free workplace

During a recent operation to remove redundant pipe work on one of our Projects as part of a 3 man lift, one of the Team required Hospital treatment when his hand was caught between the pipe and the concrete floor.

- Wherever works involve manual handling it is vital that they are supported by suitable risk assessment and method statement.
- During risk assessment an immediate consideration must be to ask if manual handling is necessary and can mechanical measures be introduced instead.
- Wherever manual handling cannot be avoided the task must be carried out by competent and physically able people who have been suitably trained, with the appropriate PPE for the task and environment (*certain items will require a specific type of glove to stop slippage*).
- During any team lift operation someone must be allocated as the coordinator and direct the others involved. Miscommunication can easily lead to confusion.
- Prior to any manual handling operation the working environment must also be assessed to ensure a suitable route is in present.



Manual handling operations dominate accident statistics and result in pain and suffering to many people.

Has everyone been involved with the method and route of lifting where mechanical means are not suitable? Has the safe system of work been agreed and briefed? Are people trained and do people know their role in the Team?