

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0018
Subject:	Operator struck by coil
Date:	October 2006

Incident:

- Casual employee was operating overhead crane, under direct supervision, to load coils onto the decoiler using the approved lifting frame.
- Casual employee incorrectly positioned himself between the coil being moved and the row of bulk coil on the floor behind him. The supervisor did not detect this positioning.
- The casual employee then, inadvertently, selected the West button on the pendant control instead of East. The coil travelled towards him and as he realized this he released the control button.
- The swing of the coil caused him to be pinned between the moving coil and the row of bulk coil behind him.
- Casual employee suffered abdominal bruising.



Key Lessons:

- Casual employee was experienced in overhead crane operation but not at this workplace and he was not licensed.
- He had not oriented himself with the directional compass of the overhead crane and admitted that he pushed the wrong button.



Recommendations:

- Reinforce the need to:
 1. Stop and review area for hazards before moving a load.
 2. Not put yourself 'in the line of fire'.
 3. Move the load safely, as low as practicable, and keep away from people.
- Include skill assessment under control conditions in employee induction prior to being authorised to use equipment.

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
Tel: (03) 9694 4499; Fax (03) 9694 4498; email - ianc@steel.org.au

*** Safety Alerts are distributed by Australian Steel Institute as general information ONLY and are not intended as specific recommendations or advice ***