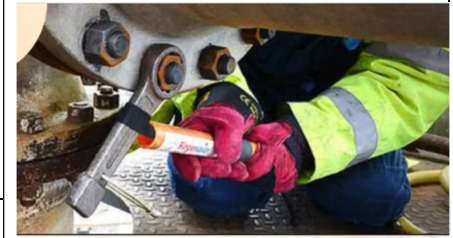


Date:	31/03/2026	Contact person:	Marine Safety & Vetting
Type of notification:	HSE Notification	Contact number (or email)	Vetting@riotinto.com
Category	Human / Equipment / Procedure	Type of Alert	Shared learning from incidents

Distribution of notice to: Rio Tinto Marine Associates

Details:

Hand and finger injuries remain among the most common personal injury types across the maritime industry, particularly during routine maintenance and workshop activities. Industry experience shows that such injuries frequently arise during tasks perceived as low-risk, where line-of-fire and pinch-point hazards are not always fully appreciated, even under stable operating conditions and with PPE in use. Common examples include the use of hammer and punch tools, tightening or loosening nuts and bolts, chisel work, and similar manual activities, where momentary hand placement within the danger zone has resulted in contact injuries requiring onboard first aid and, in some cases, further medical assessment ashore. At Rio Tinto, we apply the GRIP approach to help crew recognise line-of-fire risks early and use the right tools to protect their hands.



Finger Saver Tool

Key Points:

- Hand and finger injuries often occur during routine, familiar tasks, rather than high-energy or abnormal operations.
- Line-of-fire exposure can exist even when tasks appear controlled and conditions are stable.
- Manual tasks involving impact, torque, or leverage present inherent risks when hand placement is not actively managed.
- PPE provides protection but does not, on its own, eliminate line-of-fire and pinch-point hazards.

Causal Factors / Root Causes:

- Hands positioned within the line of fire during impact, tightening or cutting activities.
- Stabilisation of tools or components by hand during force-applied tasks.
- Task familiarity leading to reduced perception of risk during routine maintenance activities.
- Insufficient consideration of hand placement as part of task setup and execution.

Prevention:

- Use engineered hand-protection aids (e.g. finger savers, thumb-saver chisel and punch holders, clamps, vices) to maintain separation between hands and impact or pinch points.
- Avoid stabilising tools or components by hand where purpose-designed holding or securing devices are available.
- Ensure toolbox talks cover correct tool selection and explain when hand-protection tools apply.
- Promote crew familiarisation with the range of injury-prevention tools available onboard, including understanding their purpose, availability, and appropriate application.



Chisel & Punch Holder

Next Steps

Review ship-specific maintenance procedures, JSAs, and PMS to confirm hand and finger injury risks are adequately addressed during routine activities, including correct tool selection, use of engineered hand-protection aids, and crew awareness through toolbox talks and familiarisation with tools onboard. Refer to the GRIP checklist on the following page.

For further Information: <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/staticfile/Cwp/assets/SRS/Issue29/case-studies/addressing-personnel-injuries.html> ; <https://www.imca-int.com/resources/safety/safety-flashes/0421-hand-injury-when-caught-in-machinery/> ; <https://vimeo.com/1152112571?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci> Please reach out to vetting@riotinto.com in case of any feedback.

Call to Action: Activities



GRIP

G Go, look, see

R Right tooling

I Identify the Line of Fire

P Protect your hands

- 1 Questions to ask yourself when undertaking an activity where your hands could be in the line of fire:
 - How can I hurt myself?
 - Is there a tool I can use instead?
 - Do I need PPE?
 - Should I stop this job?
- 2 Can you explain the GRIP Checklist and what it stands for?
 - G – Go, look, see
 - R – Right tool
 - I – Identify the Line of Fire
 - P – Protect your hands
- 3 Based on this scenario what can someone hurt their hands on?
To protect their hands what do they need to consider when doing the task?