

Hydro Tasmania

SAFETY BRIEF

Topic

Brief Number (YYMMDD)	250822	Date Issued	22 August 2025
SAP Number (if applicable)	N/A	Approved By	Head of WHS
Action Required?	Yes		

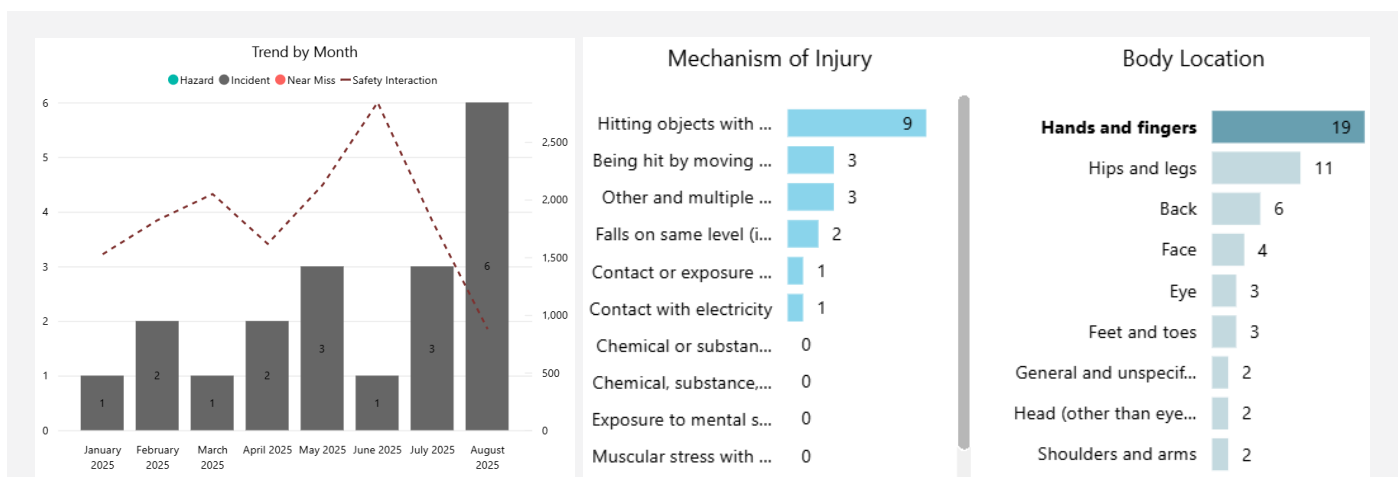
Summary

In August'25, we've had six hand-related injuries across our business, bringing the total this year to 19. This is a noticeable spike and it's something that deserves our full attention.

Two of the most recent incidents involved serious hand injuries – one of our team members suffered a compound fracture (crush injury) while handling a heavy object in a tight space (Reece), and another team member (contractor) received a finger laceration while using an angle grinder (TVPS). These investigations are still underway, so we don't yet know all the details. But what we do know is that both incidents show how quickly and unexpectedly our hands can be injured. Most of the hand injuries this year have involved either hitting objects or being struck by moving objects. These are everyday risks in our work. That's why it's so important to plan tasks carefully, use the right equipment, and position ourselves safely before we start.

Work conditions are often complex, and mistakes sometimes happen. But by applying the hierarchy of controls, improving planning, and designing work with safety in mind, we can build stronger defences against harm. Our hands are among our most valuable tools, and they're often closest to the hazard.

Photos – Year to date Hand injury statistics



Message

The key message for all of us – whether employees, leaders, or contractors, is to always consider:

- Where will your hands be during the task – will they be in the line of fire?
- Are there pinch points, sharp edges, or moving parts?
- Be aware of your surroundings and what others are doing.
- Apply the hierarchy of controls – assess whether a tool can be used rather than your hands?
- Always wear the proper hand protection for the task and know the limitations of your gloves and what tasks they are appropriate for.

Call to Action

Leaders:

- Use this Safety Brief in your Toolbox discussions and Team meetings / pre-start
- Check work that teams are involved in and support & encourage good practice
- Conduct targeted Safety interactions about hand safety over the coming weeks (*hint: when logging your SI's, use the words "hand safety" in the title field so we can review your insights*)
- Be curious about the availability and specification of PPE for hand tasks

Workers:

- Conduct targeted Safety interactions about hand safety over the coming weeks (*hint: when logging your SI's, use the words "hand safety" in the title field so we can review your insights*)
- Hazard reporting – report any conditions or aspects that might contribute to hand injuries (e.g. inadequate machine guarding, sharp objects, inadequate work methods / tools)
- Ensure Take 5's consider specific hand safety risks such as cut, crush, bruise, burn, pinch etc.

Below is a Take 5 guide with hand safety specific considerations next to each of the 20 standard hazard identification questions. This might highlight the "hidden" things aren't obvious.

1	Do I have safe access / egress?	Consider safe access if handling equipment/tools? Proximity to hazards / energy sources
2	Can nearby activities injure me?	Are my hands safe from other activities and tasks in the vicinity?
3	Can my activities interfere with or injure others?	Could I drop something or hit or expose someone with or to something? Exclusion zone?
4	Can I strain or overexert myself?	Is there a risk of repetitive strain injury or overexerting hands and fingers?
5	Are there enough people to perform this task?	Multi-person lifts required?
6	Can I slip or trip on anything?	In the event of slip/trip/falls you might have to brace with your hands? Clear walkways?
7	Can I fall onto, into or from anything?	Bracing with hands, are we carrying objects? 3-points of contact possible?
8	Can I come into contact with something harmful?	If I must contact something, am I prepared with the appropriate PPE for my hands?
9	Do I have PPE fit for the task?	Different types of gloves required for different purposes and hazards? Are mine appropriate?
10	Can weather conditions affect my safety?	Cold environments, restricted movement? Frozen walkways, slip/trip/fall risk?
11	Do I need a permit for the task?	Consider, what if things don't go as planned? E.g. changes in scope of work? New hazards?
12	Can I cause something to fall onto someone?	Do I have to lift or hold or move an object which requires gloves and/or more than 1 person?
13	Are my tools and equipment fit for purpose?	Do I need to use my hands, or can I use a safer tool instead? E.g. Stanley knife vs side cutters
14	Can I spill or pollute anything?	Do I need to decant something or handle something with my hands or is there an alternative?
15	Is there a safer way to do the task?	It may take longer but it will be safer not to use (only) my hands for this?
16	Do I need to isolate an energy source?	Did I identify ALL the possible energy sources e.g. electrical, mechanical, pneumatic, gravity?
17	Are any hazardous substances involved?	Identify the possible hazards, check the SDS and select the correct type of PPE
18	Do I have enough time to perform the task?	Is there a temptation to rush and are my hands at risk of injury in getting the job done?
19	Am I in a good state of mind for the task?	Can fatigue or lack of concentration place my hands in the line of fire?
20	Are there any other hazards present?	What "high-energy" sources are present and what "hidden" dangers might surprise me?