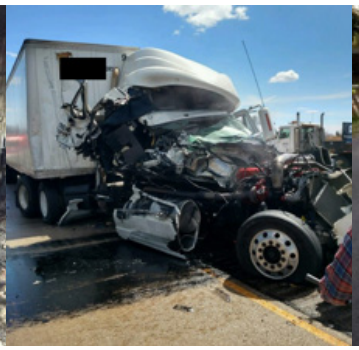
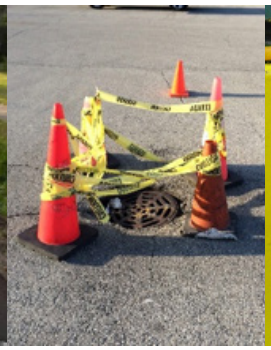
WEST BEND®
THE SILVER LINING®

Loss Lessons

FROM the EXPERIENCE of OTHERS





Initial Estimated Cost of the Loss: $319,404.29

Type of Business: Auto Repair Shop

Line of Insurance Coverage: Workers Compensation

Incident Type: Eye Injury

Description of the Incident:

An automotive technician was in the process of removing a transmission cooler line on a vehicle when the line broke. While pulling on a vice grip with a 6mm socket attached to remove a fitting on the broken line, the vice grip and socket slipped off the fitting and hit the employee directly in the eye. The employee suffered a laceration and ruptured globe of the left eye which required surgery. During the incident investigation, it was found that the employee was not wearing the provided safety glasses at the time of the incident and had taken them off because he "didn’t think he needed them for the task at hand".

Recommendations for Best Practices to prevent future, similar losses:

Employees should wear proper eye protection whenever there is a chance of eye injury. It is estimated that 90 percent of eye injuries can be prevented through the use of proper protective eyewear. Many of the workplace eye injuries that require medical treatment are the result of employees who do not wear eye protection, or wear the wrong type for the job. The best ways to prevent injury to the eye is to always wear the appropriate eye protection. To be effective, eye wear must fit properly and be effectively designed to protect the eyes based on the activity being performed. The Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) standards for eye protection are intended to help prevent accidents that can lead to serious injuries, up to including blindness, caused by a variety of mechanical, chemical, environmental, or radiological irritants and hazards.

Regulatory Safety References:

OSHA 1910.133 Eye and face protection
OSHA Eye and Face Protection eTool - https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/eyeandface/ppe/selection.html
Eye Safety Checklist - https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/pdfs/EyeSafetyChecklist.pdf
Eye Safety Tool Box Talk - https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/pdfs/Instructor.pdf