

Safety Flashes are produced by the Marlborough Safety Forum. They are intended to summarise key safety matters and incidents and allow wider distribution of lessons learnt. The effectiveness of the safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to Forum members. These may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided in the article.

Any actions, lessons learnt, recommendations and suggestions in the Marlborough Safety Forum safety flashes are generated by the submitting organisation. The Marlborough Safety Forum safety flashes provide safety information for the benefit of members and do not necessarily constitute guidance, nor represent the official view of the Forum or its members.

Please share as relevant to your organisation.

1 Loss of eye sight

A worker was struck in the eye with a bungee cord (occy strap) causing permanent damage. A bungee cord was put on as an addition to stop the rolled up tarp on a truck from flapping during transit. The worker was removing a bungee cord which was stuck, when it came loose it released with stored energy. The cord hit the worker in the eye.

The injured workers was seen by accident and emergency but has lost partial sight in his right eye. The worker has been able to return to full duties. This incident has been reported to WorkSafe and a duty holder review completed.

Key failings identified:

- Cover was modified in attempt to do the right thing.

Basic Cause:

- Worker was not aware of the hidden energy in the bungee
- Cover not fit for purpose as it had a quick fix on it
- Contributing factors: Are additional events or non-actions that allowed the incident to occur.
- Proper risk assessment not conducted on a modification.

Lesson:

Risk assessments need to be conducted for all equipment brought on site or modified to ensure fit for purpose and any hazards are identified and controlled prior to operational use.

Corrective actions were implemented.

- The tarp has been removed and a re-designed tarp fitted so that a bungee cord is no longer needed.
- All bungee cords were removed and the issue fixed properly.
- A review of potential gaps in the safety management system identified that some of the administration processes need to be reviewed and re-implemented.
- Situational awareness campaign was run across the business.



2 Relevant articles:

Northern Territory Airports – Safety Alert - BANNED USE OF “OCCY STRAPS” OR ELASTIC RESTRAINING STRAPS

http://www.ntairports.com.au/sites/default/files/NTA_Safety%20Alert_Occy%20straps%206-11.pdf