Finger Injury Trend - Doors

Safety Alert

What happened?

A member has reported a recent trend of finger injuries associated with people accessing and egressing through site doors.

Incidents occurred when fingers were positioned within pinch points during opening or closing doors, or when doors behaved unexpectedly due to defects, pressure changes, or surrounding conditions.

These injuries resulted in finger fractures and soft-tissue damage, requiring medical treatment and removal from site.

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Incident 1

Incident Description:

The Injured Party (IP) was exiting through a sliding door when their finger became trapped between the door frame and a breaker bar handle.

The door was being operated using both hands, during which the little finger of the right hand was positioned within a pinch point.

The IP was medically evacuated onshore for hospital treatment, where a fracture was confirmed and surgical repair to the fingernail was required, including stitches.

Actions & Findings:

- Following the incident, the door was reported and quarantined
- Subsequent inspection identified the door was not fitted with a stop mechanism and the breaker bar securing pin had sheared, increasing the risk of trapping injuries

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Incident 2

Incident Description:

The IP was proceeding to a worksite after responding to a tannoy call and accessed a heavy industrial door located within the switch room.

The IP had removed his impact gloves prior to entering. While closing the door, the door handle lock bar dropped unexpectedly and trapped the IP's finger between the handle and lock bar.

Due to the nature of the injury, the IP was demobilised offshore and subsequently assessed by an occupational health provider.

Actions & Findings:

- The defective door handle lock bar was reported and repaired
- The IP removed the impact gloves before operating the door

Picture shows the door lock handle swinging free

Door lock handle has now been fixed providing protection and stopping the door lock handle from swinging free.

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Incident 3

Incident Description:

The IP was opening an internal door within the accommodation area locker room when a nearby external accommodation door was opened simultaneously.

The opening of the external door created a pressure differential, causing the internal sliding door to slam shut.

This resulted in the IP sustaining a soft-tissue injury to a finger on the right hand.

IP hand and body position at time of incident

External accommodation door contributed causing a pressure change.

Findings:

- Pressure differentials and nearby doors caused sudden, uncontrolled door movement.

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Findings:

- Fingers were placed in pinch points around door edges, frames, handles and lock bars
- Some doors were defective or difficult to operate (e.g. missing stops, worn or damaged components)
- Gloves were removed too early, reducing protection during door operation
- Pressure differentials and nearby doors caused sudden, uncontrolled door movement
- Situational awareness was reduced during routine or time-pressured activities

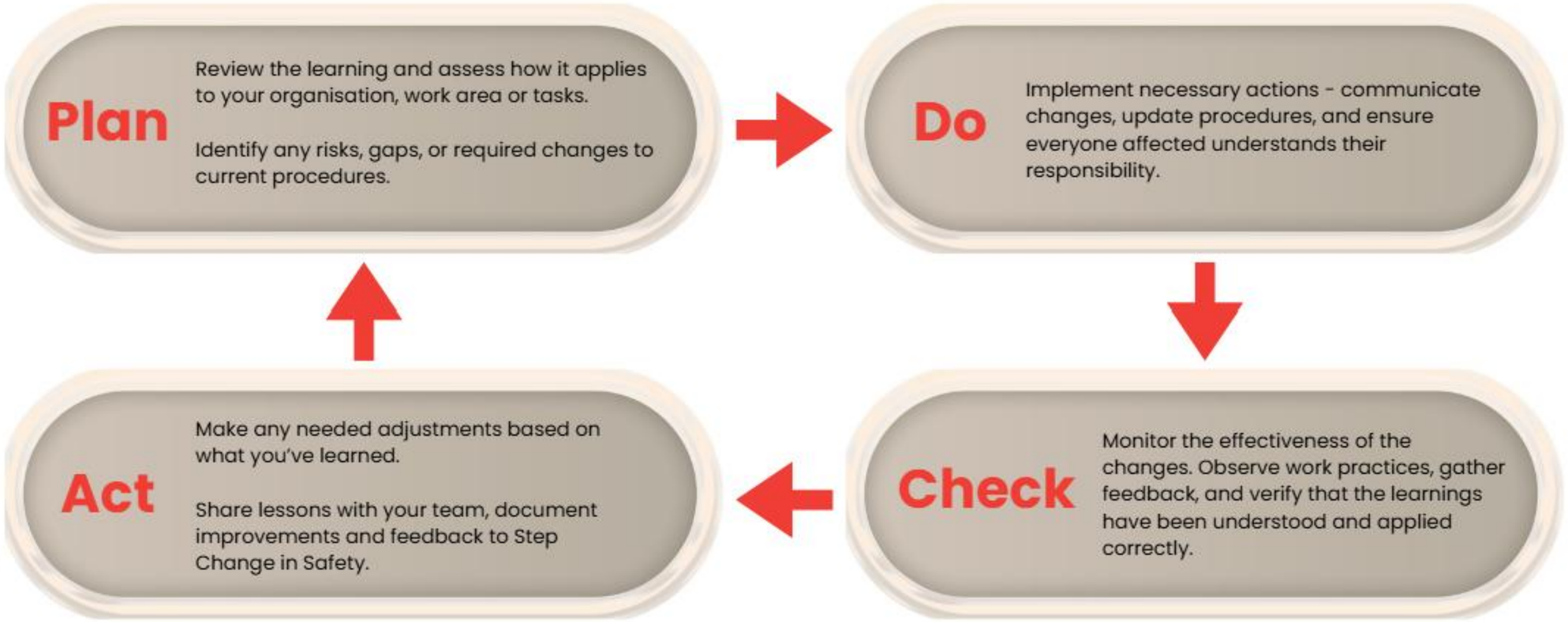
Good practice guidance:

- Keep hands and fingers clear of door edges, frames, handles, lock bars and pinch points
- Only put hands in the designated ‘hold’ position for operating doors
- Maintain good situational awareness when opening and closing doors, especially heavy or unfamiliar doors
- Anticipate pressure changes, wind effects, or nearby doors that may cause sudden movement
- Keep appropriate hand protection on until the task is fully completed
- If a door feels heavy, damaged, or behaves unexpectedly – stop, keep hands clear and report it
- Report defects immediately through local reporting processes and escalate if action is delayed

Verification of learnings shared and feedback

Safety Alert

To ensure this learning leads to meaningful improvement, follow the Plan Do Check Act process and provide your feedback to Step Change in Safety.



Share your learnings and feedback. **Your proactive engagement helps create a safer workplace for everyone.**

Feedback Form

Link to **Resource Feedback Form**