

## Trainee fractures finger between drill rods

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A trainee has sustained a fracture between the small knuckle and the tip of their left-hand ring finger when they placed their hand under the drill rod as they guided it onto the drill rod rack.

The trainee was working on a drill rig that requires manual manoeuvring of the drill rods into the rack (no rod handler). At the time of the injury the trainee was unsupervised.

Many sites hire contractors to conduct drilling and blasting at their site. **You are responsible for contractors and employees of contractors while they are working on your site.** The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 is quite clear in defining the PCBU, or business owner, as the person responsible for ensuring the health and safety of workers.

Worker, for the purpose of the Act, is defined as:

### Meaning of worker

*(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, a worker means an individual who carries out work in any capacity for a PCBU, including work as—*

- (a) an employee; or*
- (b) a **contractor** or **subcontractor**; or*
- (c) an **employee of a contractor or subcontractor**; .....*



You need to ensure that:

- **If possible, only use drill rigs that have rod handlers**
- **Trainees are supervised at all times**
- **Clearly agree with your contractors what safety systems are to be followed. If you are relying on the contractor's safety system, verify that it meets your requirements and those of the legislation**
- **Verify contractors' understanding, and competency, to complete the task/s safely**
- **Check that all contractors' equipment is fit for purpose**
- **Supervise, and conduct physical checks, to ensure contractors are completing the task/s in accordance with safe work procedures and/or risk assessments completed.**

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

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