

# Safety Alert

## Injury to thumb

### What happened?

A pipe support (weight 17kg) was being passed over pipework, when the support slipped and fell onto the contractor's hand.

After continuing on with his work, contractor advised that he felt increasing pain so was advised to attend hospital to get an X-Ray. X-Ray showed he had a broken bone in his left thumb.

### Findings



- Contractors were passing pipe supports over these pipes.
- They used the pipe to lean over and pass the support.
- During this task the pipe support slipped and fell onto the contractor's hand trapping it between the support and the pipe, injuring his thumb

### Learning

Although the lifting of the support on its own was not an issue, stretching to pass it over pipe work should have alerted them to re assess.

Manual handling assessment should of highlight a safer way to get supports across which would of avoiding stretching to pass supports over.

Human factors has an impact on this incident and needs to be investigated.

Investigation on going.