

Thumb Injury While Using Pneumatic Drill

Description of Incident (Occurred August 3, 2019)

At approximately 5:00 p.m., a worker was tidying up on the Process Deck of an offshore production facility after completing the drilling of a hole on a Trunnion. When the worker attempted to remove the drill bit from a pneumatic drill using a chuck-key, the drill spun and bent his right thumb backwards. It was identified during the investigation that the air in the line of the drill was turned off, but the worker had failed to bleed off the air line to release potential stored energy, which caused the drill to spin. The Pneumatic Drill was not equipped with a trigger lock to prevent inadvertent activation. (Note: See attached images)

The worker was assessed by the Medic and was then transported onshore for further assessment. The worker required surgery to repair ligament damage suffered in the incident.

Corrective Actions & Recommendations

- The incident findings summary was shared with all workers, with an emphasis on the importance of identifying and mitigating all hazards, including specifically bleeding down air lines.
- A survey was completed and all pneumatic tools without locking triggers were removed from service.
- A policy was established to ensure that all pneumatic tools to be purchased in future require a safety lock to prevent inadvertent activation.

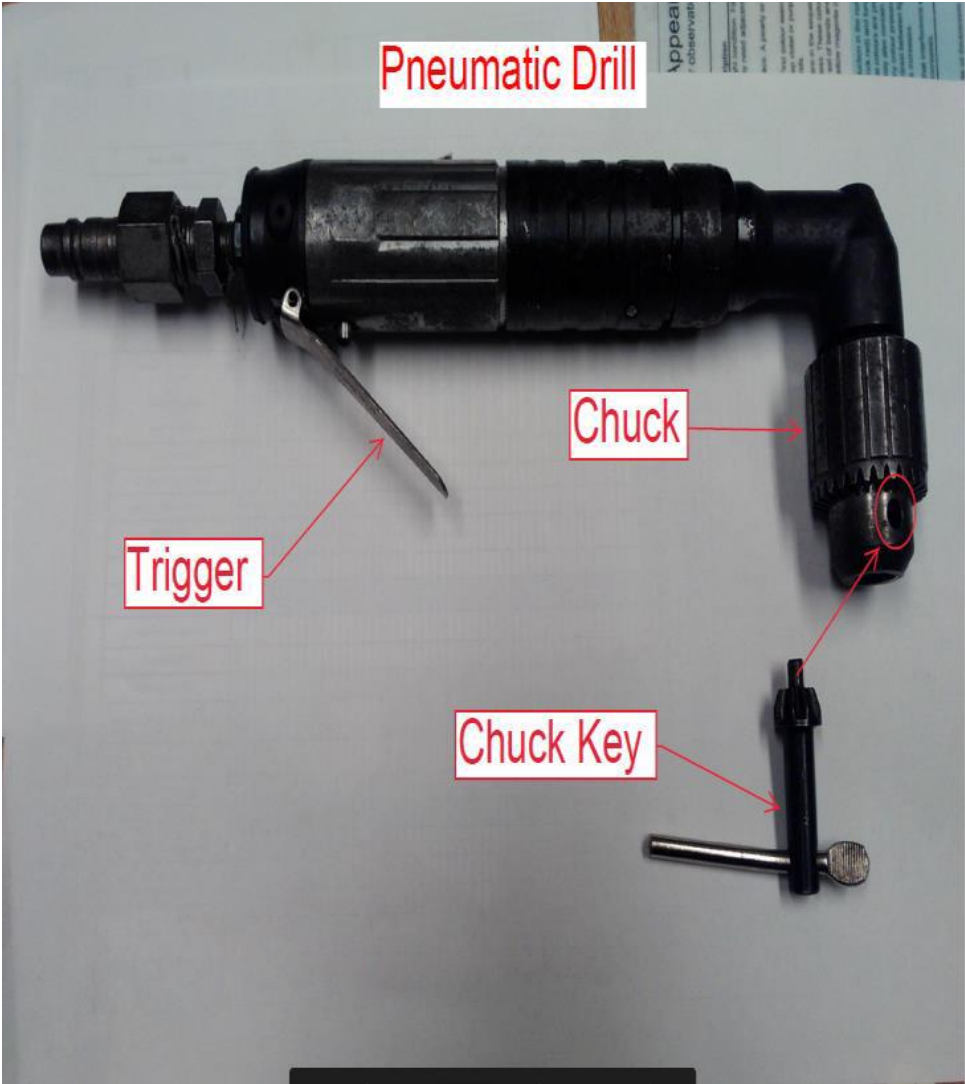
Applicable Lifesaving Rule

IOGP's Lifesaving Rule on [Energy Isolation](#) applies to this incident. [Read more](#) about IOGP's lifesaving rules.

Posted on October 15, 2021

[Read more](#) Atlantic Canada Offshore Safety Alerts.

Picture 1- Overview of Pneumatic Drill



Picture 2 – Pneumatic drill with key inserted into chuck to remove/install drill bit

