SAFETY ALERT

The below information has been issued on behalf of the EFFC to make others aware of the potential risks and possible precautions to take in order to avoid these.

Date/Time of Incident:	06-05-2026
Type of Incident:	Lost time
Nature of Incident/Injury:	Removal of Auger String Crushed Finger
Details of Incident:	An Auger String was in the process of being retracted with each flight individually removed. During the lowering of the Rig Head, there was a miscommunication between the Spannerman (IP), who was inserting the Auger Plate (to prevent the Auger dropping once disconnected) and the Rig Operator. As a result, when the Rig Head was lowered, the IP's hand was still holding the plate handle, this resulted in their LH Middle Finger being caught between the Plate and Steel Knuckle. **Green Arrow** 
Root cause (if known):	Identified that the incident was caused by a breakdown in communication between the rig operator and the spannerman, combined with poor operator positioning that restricted visibility. This meant the operator could not clearly see the spannerman's hand, which remained on the auger plate as the rig head was lowered, resulting in the finger being caught in a pinch point between the plate and steel knuckle.

Action Taken:

Stopped the task, making the equipment safe, and assessing the injured operative.

Began reinforcing safer communication practices using the “See, hands, signal” approach to confirm hands are clear before movement.

Lessons Learnt:

1. The positioning of the Rig Operator (who controls this type of rig remotely) is key to the safety of this operation.

By standing in the normal position of side-on to the Rig, they can clearly see the position of the Spannermans hands. **Blue Arrow**

However, on the day of the incident this was not possible due to site constraints, instead a position was taken behind the Spannerman whereby the view and verbal communication was impeded.

2. The Auger Plate Handles and Steel Knuckles create a ‘pinch point, both are to be either re-designed or removed.



Corrective Actions Taken

1. See Hands Signal campaign to be relaunched to include the correct positioning of the Rig Operator.

2. The Auger Plate is to be redesigned to move the handles well away from the Auger, there is also a manual handling issue to be addressed due to the weight of the plate (max weight to be 20Kg).

3. The Steel Lugs are to be removed.