

# Safety and health alert

## 19/00 Eye injuries

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### Incident

A 53 year old roof carpenter working at Bicton was hospitalised during March when either a fragment of a piece of timber or a nail hit him in the eye.

The worker was using a nail gun to fix an under purlin into the hip of a roof structure on a two storey residential dwelling. A workmate assisting him was holding the other end of the purlin whilst two nails were fixed into the hip, one from underneath and one from above. When firing the nail from above the worker felt a sharp pain in his eye.

The worker using the nail gun received a serious laceration to his right eye and required hospitalisation.

Warnings both on the nail gun and in the Operator's Instructions clearly state that eye protection with side shields must be worn when using the nail gun.

### Factors

- Failure to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment – eye protection.
- Position of workers in relation to fixing point.

### Recommendations

- Direction of fixing should be assessed to ensure any body parts are as clear as practicable.
- Always ensure that both the contact point and line of fixing reduces the likelihood of fragmentation or ricochet.
- Carpenters must ensure that when using a nail gun they wear appropriate eye protection that complies with AS/NZS 1337 – 1992.
- Ensure that nail guns are operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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