



OCTOBER 2023

TOOLBOX TALKS

Too Much with Too Little

Task demands refer to the physical, cognitive, and emotional requirements of a particular job or activity. These demands can vary widely and are essential to consider in preventing accidents, injuries, and reduce the risk of human error. Identifying and understanding the task demands are crucial for maintaining peak performance and minimizing workplace incidents.

On a windfarm construction site Team Member was assigned multiple tasks due to a few crew members being out. In addition to being the primary connector, his primary job function, he was also asked to be the signalman for the crane operations that day as well; this was a deviation from normal operations placing higher task demands on the TM.

During a routine hoist of a WTG component, the Team Member was attempting to focus on both signaling the crane while simultaneously working to align the flange bolt holes. As he was focused on those two tasks another Team Member asked a question causing him to lose focus on hand placement where he unfortunately suffered a serious hand injury due to a crush point. With the burden of too many task demands and the pressure to keep the process moving forward, the worker's attention became divided.

Analysis of the Incident:

Task Overload: The worker was overwhelmed by too many simultaneous tasks, leading to divided attention and reduced concentration on each individual task.

Time Pressure: No adjustments to the crew make-up or intent to slow down activities added to the urgency to complete the required tasks, potentially compromising safety.

Lack of Support: The absence of two workers placed an additional burden on the individual, necessitating their involvement in tasks outside their primary responsibilities.

Preventive Measures:

Task Prioritization: Supervisors should prioritize tasks and allocate resources to ensure workers are not overloaded with responsibilities.

Adequate Staffing: Maintain an appropriate number of workers on-site to handle the workload effectively and safely.

Clear Communication: Promote clear communication protocols and emphasize the importance of focused communication during critical operations.

By addressing the issue of task overload and implementing preventive measures, our work sites can reduce the risk of injuries caused by divided attention and help create a safer working environment for all workers.



Do you feel overwhelmed with too many tasks?

**If so, have you brought it up with supervision?
Why or why not?**