



Zero Fatalities
Zero Lost Time
Zero Road/Speed Incidents
Zero Environmental Incidents
Zero Tolerance of Unsafe Behaviours & Practices



PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 14

Date: 04 June 2019	Focus Group: Trailer users
Topic: Misaligned hinge (maintenance)	Issued by: Nic Steens

Incident: A staff member jammed a finger in the misaligned tail gate of a trailer.

Injury Details: Laceration; glued (fingertip – unable to be stitched) and pain relief.

Risk Awareness: Trailers are often worked beyond their capacity and/or suffer damage, which can go unattended. Serious damage can occur in one-off use or result from many occasions of use (or misuse). Using a trailer in a sub-optimal state occurs because of what is called '[normalisation](#)' – the acceptance of a risk because users have escaped harm in the past and the practice no longer feels wrong! Notwithstanding, a 'feeling' does not negate the risk of minor harm or serious downstream consequences.

Safe Behaviour: Normalisation is often linked to 'time pressure' or a sense of urgency that can cause us to want to take a shortcut – even that we 'should' shortcut our safety best practices because the conditions or situation are urgent. What can help?

1. Normalisation is human – look for it and take deliberate counter-steps!
2. Don't use equipment unless it functions as built and [purposed](#).
3. Implement a [register/check sheet](#) for equipment users e.g. for trailers, encouraging users to check for damage (pre/post use) and make immediate repairs as required.

For Site Manager use (print this document and then complete):

This safety alert is relevant to my site? Yes or No (circle one)

If yes, complete the following actions:

1. This safety alert has been discussed with employees and operators
2. I have placed this safety alert on the site notice board or in the safety file

Site Manager: _____
(signature)

Date: / /