

SAFETY ALERT

371-Serious Hand Injury from Defective Skip Bin Lid

Background

An E&R PSW employee was attempting to dispose of waste into a hydrocarbon waste skip bin when they experienced difficulty opening the lid fully due to a bent locking/latching mechanism.

While holding the lid open with one hand, they used the other hand to free the jammed latch so the lid could be raised further. The latch was stuck between locking positions and was not properly engaged.

While attempting to release the latch, the employee lost control of the lid. The lid dropped unexpectedly, trapping their thumb and resulting in a serious hand injury.

Safety Issues

- Damaged bin affecting locking/latching mechanism.
- Inadequate inspection and maintenance of hired equipment.
- Exposure to pinch-point and line-of-fire hazards.
- Heavy lid not effectively secured in the open position.
- Routine task familiarity reducing risk awareness.

⚠️ Serious Hand Injury

Routine Task + Damaged Equipment + Line of Fire



RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

- Inspect bins and lids before use.
- Remove damaged equipment from service.
- Report defects immediately.
- Include hired equipment in inspections programs.
- Keep hands clear of pinch points.
- Secure lids before clearing jams.
- Stop work if equipment is not operating correctly.
- Ask for assistance when needed.
- Challenge complacency during routine tasks.

For more information please contact: safety@programmed.com.au

Date of Issue: 19/06/2026

Report all incidents and near misses

Please display on Safety Noticeboards and raise this matter at the next Toolbox Talk or Safety Meeting.