

**On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 in South Texas, a man suffered a chipped tooth and cut lip requiring two stitches when his hand slipped while using this lever type load binder with a handle extension.**

- ⇒ Ratchet type binders are safer.
- ⇒ Unapproved handle extensions add risk.
- ⇒ Manufacturers warn against them.
- ⇒ This worker had oil on his gloves which added to the hazard .
- ⇒ Some companies have eliminated lever type load binders.
- ⇒ Many common hazards have not been engineered out due to complacency.
- ⇒ Prior to this incident, South Texas had 325 days without a recordable incident.



# Binder Cheaters

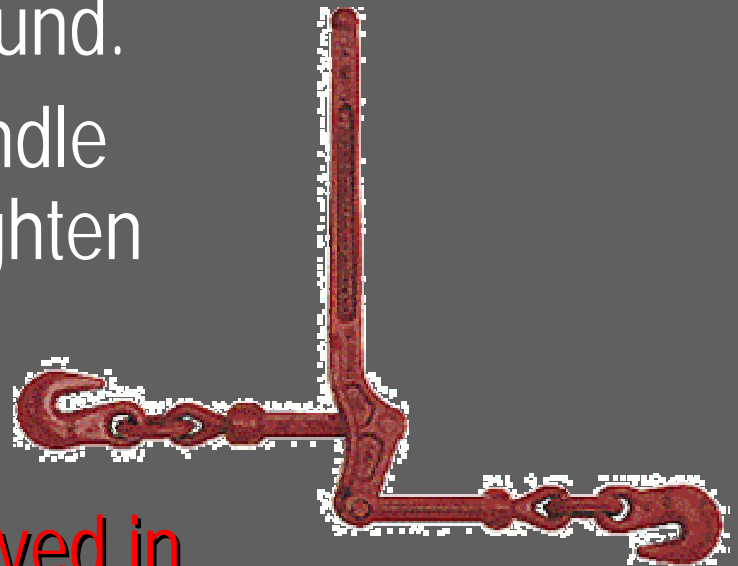
- ⇒ Crosby recommends AGAINST the use of a handle extender (cheater pipe).
- ⇒ If a cheater pipe is used
  - Must closely fit the handle
  - Must slide down until the handle projections are contacted.
  - Secure to the handle, for example, by a pin.
  - **Note: The manufacturer of the binder involved in the recent S. Texas incident, Columbus McKinnon, states that NO HANDLE EXTENDER SHOULD BE USED . The use of a cheater can and has caused the product to fail resulting in serious injuries.**

# Unapproved handle extenders...

- ⇒ Can slip off the end of the tool.
- ⇒ Can roll, causing a loss of control.
- ⇒ Add stress to tools beyond engineering specs.
- ⇒ Can usually be eliminated by using the proper tool, i.e. a 36" instead of a 24" with a cheater.
- ⇒ Can cause unseen damage to equipment.
- ⇒ In nearly all cases void the warranty of the tool.
- ⇒ Add risk to our workforce.

# Binders

- ⇒ Hook load binder to chain so you can operate it standing on the ground.
- ⇒ Position load binder so its handle can be pulled downward to tighten chain.
- ⇒ Do not side load the binder.
- ⇒ **This is the type that was involved in our most recent incident in S.Texas.**



# Binders

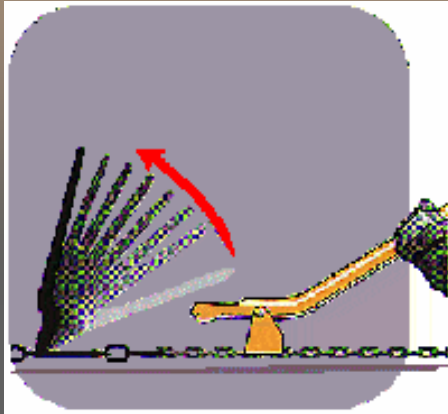
- ⇒ During and after tightening chain, check load binder handle position.
    - ▣ Locked position
    - ▣ Bottom side touches the chain link
  - ⇒ Chain tension may decrease due to load shifting during transport.
    - ▣ Secure handle to chain
- ( When using a lever type load binder with an extension, excessive force can be applied causing breakage or other damage. The ratchet type helps eliminate this problem ).

# Binders

## ➔ Releasing load binder

- Remember there is a great deal of energy in the stretched chain.
- Load binder handle will move very quickly, with great force when it is unlatched.
- Move handle with caution.
- Keep body clear.
- Ratchet type binders eliminate this hazard





## Binders

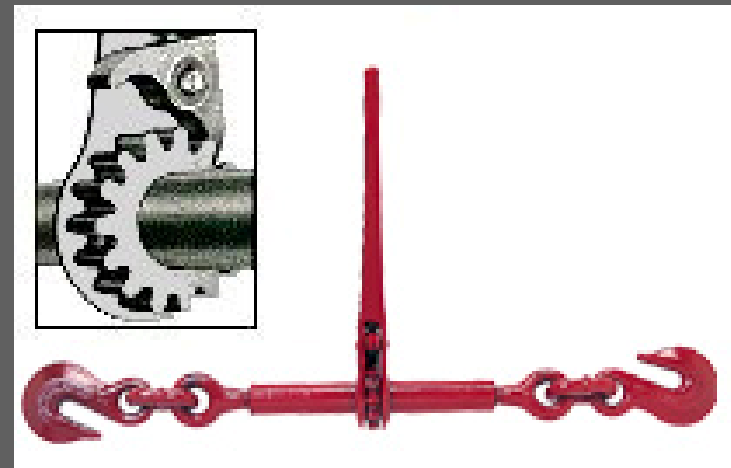
- ➔ Never use a cheater pipe or handle extender to release handle.
  - ▣ Use a steel bar and pry under the handle
  - ▣ Stay out of the path of handle as it moves upward
  - ▣ **Ratchet type binders eliminate this hazard**

# Binders

- ➔ To release the binder handle by hand
  - ▣ Use an open hand under the handle and push upward
  - ▣ Do not close your hand around the handle.
  - ▣ Always keep yourself out of the path of the moving handle
  - ▣ Ratchet type binders eliminate the poor body position required for safe release of lever binders.

# Ratchet Binders

- ⇒ Safer than Lever Binders
- ⇒ Higher mechanical advantage
  - ▣ Lever 25:1
  - ▣ Ratchet 50:1
- ⇒ Cheater pipes not needed



## **Additional facts about this case:**

- ⇒ The men knew this tool posed a hazard but used it every day and did not consider changing.
- ⇒ If this common hazard exists, others are out there.
- ⇒ Complacency is one of our worst hazards.
- ⇒ We would appreciate your comments, and in turn will share whatever we learn with you.
- ⇒ Thanks from the South Texas OC.
- ⇒ Teamwork works!