



ALERT

August 2011



In a recent incident on the Bovis Lend Lease Law Courts project in the Brisbane CBD, a Formwork Carpenter while accessing a **GANGBOX / TOOLBOX**, had the lid come down on him unexpectedly, first hitting his head and knocking his helmet off; then severely crushing his right hand. His hand required surgery to insert pins to repair multiple breaks in one of his fingers.

Organisers and Delegates are therefore asked in day to day site inspections, to please check all lids on **GANGBOXES / TOOL BOXES** to make sure that they are fitted with a **FOOLPROOF LOCKING MECHANISM** to prevent the heavy lids coming down on workers while they are accessing them.

The history of previous incidents have varied from wind gusts blowing boxes shut, to many other factors, but all incidents have a common cause, **not** having a simple failsafe device in place.

Gangboxes/Tool Boxes come in many different designs, but the best recommendation received so far is for the fitting of **GAS STRUTS** to the lid.

Of course these **GAS STRUTS** must be designed and adequate for the task. Disappointing feedback from certain parts of our industry, try to suggest Gas Struts are not the answer, because they wear out or break. But CFMEUQ Safety disputes this, as a lot of newer designs incorporate **GAS STRUTS** in their construction.

CFMEU members should not accept designs that require one hand to lift the lid and one hand to place a bar or prop in place to keep these lids open.

A good design would mean the lid would automatically stay up once opened, and would require downward pressure to shut it again.

Bovis Lend Lease have issued notices to all sub-contractors to rectify the **GANG BOXES / TOOL BOXES** on their sites.

In the interest of our members' safety, please make sure all builders and contractors comply with this simple fix.

Any enquiries please contact Andrew Ramsay, Workplace Health & Safety Manager, CFMEU Construction & General Queensland on 07 3231 4600