



Weekly Safety Meeting

Machine Safety

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, many workers in the United States are killed each year by contact with equipment or by being caught up in operating machinery. Bottom line is that these deaths could have been prevented.

Cleaning a jammed conveyor, reaching for a wrench, and retrieving a dropped glove are just some common tasks. Yet each of these individual acts can lead to a very serious injury. Many injuries occur during equipment maintenance. Sometimes workers try to reach past the guards while trying to service equipment or get caught in power transmissions such as belts, pulleys, running rolls, chains, or sprockets. Other injuries occur when equipment is unguarded or when machinery starts unexpectedly.

If some basic precautions are taken, protecting workers from these injuries can be simple and inexpensive. Inexpensive physical controls such as machine guards can prevent many injuries. The important thing is that the guards remain in place. Bright, contrasting colors painted on machine guards and points of operation give workers a visual warning and can make it easy to spot missing guards. Good lighting also helps spot dangerous conditions or unguarded machinery.

Be Alert Working Around or Operating Machinery

The point of operation: That is where the work of the machine takes place. It's where the pressing, cutting, punching, or boring take place. It's a place where no part of the body should be. The point of operation may also produce sparks or fragments that can fly toward the operator. Safety glasses are important for this type of work.

The power train: That is where energy is transferred through moving parts like gears, shafts, belts, cable, hydraulic or pneumatic cylinders. No body parts should be in these areas either. Employees should report any missing guards to their supervisor before operating this equipment.

Regular maintenance by experienced workers can make a big difference in preventing equipment jams and in reducing the risk of injury from being caught by falling into machinery. Employers should establish and train workers to follow safe work practices around machinery and other electrical equipment. The law requires equipment to be turned off and locked out during any maintenance to prevent someone from turning it on unexpectedly.

Workers should recognize and understand the following when working around machinery:

- The location of machine guards and points of operation;
- The purpose of color-coded machinery alerting workers to hazards and to help pinpoint missing guards;

- The danger of pinch points and the importance of guards on in-running rolls, belts, pulleys, chains, and sprockets;
- Knowing and following established lockout/tagout procedures;
- Knowing when machines have been shut down for maintenance or to clear jams;
- Assuring that machines remain off while they are shut down for maintenance;
- Knowing and observing electrical safety work practices developed by the company;
- The importance of keeping machinery clean to prevent equipment jams; and
- Identifying all potential hazards:
 - Pinch points;
 - Objects that can hit you;
 - Things you can get caught in;
 - Things you can be pushed against;
 - Equipment under pressure;
 - Contact with electricity or heat;
 - Shear points or compression points; and
 - Any other hazards such as chemicals.

Remember

It is up to each worker to report unsafe pinch points so that guards can be fabricated or purchased for installation on the equipment.

Check your work area for hazards such as unguarded winch drives, chain drives, belts, augers, etc.

Most machinery has some type of a pinch point and the only way to make machines safe is by adequate guarding, which prohibits entry of fingers, clothing, or hair.

If guards are installed on a part of the machinery, keep them in place. Never operate the equipment without the guards. Inspect the machine after repairs or maintenance has been completed. Often guards will be removed for this kind of work and may not be replaced in their original location after the repairs or maintenance is over.

Safeguard your hands and fingers! Stay alert when working around machinery or moving equipment. Follow all your company safety practices and policies.

ALWAYS KEEP YOUR GUARD UP...WHEN WORKING WITH POWERED EQUIPMENT!

Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Supervisor:	Subject:
Location:	Date:
Conducted By:	Trainer Signature:

[illegible]