

## Machines in Motion Mean Danger

### WHAT'S AT STAKE?

It's a simple fact: Machines need to move to perform their tasks. Whether it's a conveyor belt carrying raw material to a mixing tank, power presses bending sheet metal or a drill press punching holes in a piece of wood, they all operate by movements that cause a serious risk to workers.

### WHAT'S THE DANGER?

The risks occur because workers sometimes put their hands or other body parts in the point of operation, get caught in between two moving parts or fail to use proper safety procedures to clear a jammed machine. Not a day goes by when someone isn't killed by moving machinery or suffers a serious injury like an amputation because they got too close or didn't follow basic safety procedures.

### EXAMPLE

The CEO and the pressroom manager of a California printing company have been charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of a pregnant worker. She was crushed by a machine that suddenly turned on as she was reaching into it. Prosecutors claim that the woman had not been properly trained to operate the machine and the machine was not equipped with proper safety devices.

### HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Even properly guarded machines are dangerous to operate, so it's important to recognize and avoid hazardous machine actions and follow the written safe work practices provided for your machinery.

Here are a dozen basic machinery safety tips:

1. Only operate machinery if you've successfully completed the required training and are authorized to do so.
2. Know how to stop the machinery before you start it.

3. Check to see if the area around the machine is tidy and free of obstructions.
4. Wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE), such as safety footwear and eyewear.
5. Do not wear loose items including gloves, dangling chains, rings or unrestrained long hair. These could get caught in the moving parts and pull you in.
6. Make sure all machine guards are fitted correctly and securely and are maintained in good working order.
7. Do not remove or disable machine guards, unless the machine requires repair or maintenance, you are authorized to conduct those repairs or maintenance AND the proper lockout-tagout procedures are followed.
8. Never attempt to start a machine that has a lockout tag on it.
9. Before using the machine, first ensure that it's working properly. Inform your supervisor if you discover any problems.
10. If the machine malfunctions while you are operating it, report the problem immediately to your supervisor and do not continue to use the machine until it has been inspected and determined safe to operate.
11. Never place your hands or any other body part in the point of operation or other moving part of the machine in order to clear a jam.
12. If you're not operating machinery, then stay clear of the area when machines are running. Never enter the immediate work area unless you establish eye or verbal contact with the operator.

### FINAL WORD

*Workplace machinery is often fast and powerful. It's strong enough to bend, cut, crush and otherwise mutilate wood, metal, glass, plastic and other materials. The human body is no match. Learn the hazards and follow the safety procedures.*

## QUIZ

1. Moving machinery can pose serious risks to workers.
  - True
  - False
2. What should you know how to do with a machine before starting it up?

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3. Obstructions and debris around a machine can lead to an operator's injury.
  - True
  - False
4. Long, unrestrained hair, jewelry, loose clothing and gloves can easily become caught in moving machinery, causing serious injuries or death.
  - True
  - False
5. It is safe enough to work with a machine whose guards have been removed or modified.
  - True
  - False

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

All day long, a lockout tag has been sitting on the machine you need to finish a project. You're pretty sure you saw the authorized repairer working on another machine. Should you just disregard the tag and turn the machine on?

## **BEFORE THE TALK - TIPS**

1. Contact with moving or stationary objects is a leading cause of workplace fatalities. Ask your safety office if there have been any such incidents in your plant. How did they occur, and how could they have been prevented?
2. Be prepared to review the start-up checklists and lockout procedures associated with machinery in your work area.
3. Prepare to demonstrate proper lockout procedures on a given machine in the workplace.
4. Draw attention to any equipment or procedures that could expose workers to amputation injury. Make sure all guards and other safety devices are functioning correctly.
5. Break the ice with a few stories about some machines you or your friends might have named. Ask the participants whether they have ever named a machine. Talk about the various danger zones on their machines and what those dangers are.
6. Ask them if they can hear changes in how the machine is operating. Ask how they can tell if the machine is operating properly. What are the warning signs that something has gone wrong?

## **AFTER THE TALK- *CHECKLIST***

#### PROVIDED FOLLOW-UP TO WORKERS THAT DID

## **POORLY ON THE QUIZ**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## OBSERVED WORKERS

TASK(S): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## REFRESHER TRAINING

TOPIC(S): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER (DESCRIBE):**

MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES

## ANSWERS:

1. True	4. True
2. How to shut it off	5. false
3. True	

## ATTENDANCE

**INSTRUCTOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SAFETY TALK:** \_\_\_\_\_