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Machine Safeguarding

The use of machinery in a manufacturing environment is common place. What is also common place are the **hazards involved** with operating and maintaining the machinery.

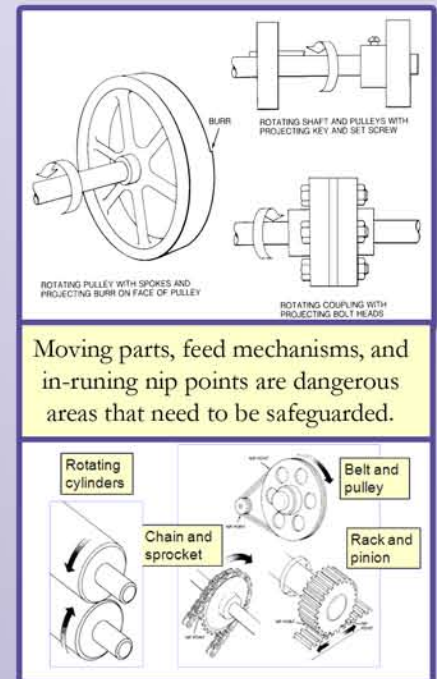
Amputation, blindness, crushed hands and arms, severed fingers....The list of possible machine-related injuries is as long as it is horrifying.

Some of the key causes for these types of injuries are:

- Reaching in to “clear” equipment
- Not using Lockout/Tagout protocols
- Operation or maintenance by unauthorized persons
- Missing or loose machine guards

Where Mechanical Hazards Occur:

- **Point of operation.** That point where work is performed on the material, such as cutting, shaping, boring, or forming of stock must be guarded.
- **All parts of the machine which move,** such as flywheels, pulleys, belts, couplings, chains, cranks, gears, etc.
- **Feed mechanisms and auxiliary parts** of the machine
- **In-running nip points**



Any machine part, function, or process which may cause injury must be safeguarded.

There are various ways that machines are safeguarded. These can range from interlocks and visual sensors to trip wires and physical guards.

Requirements for Safeguards

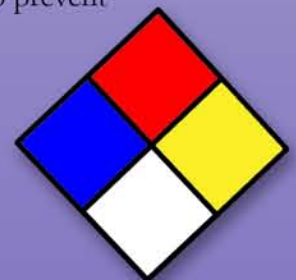
- **Prevent contact** - prevent worker's body or clothing from contacting hazardous moving parts
- **Secure** - firmly secured to machine and not easily removed
- **Protect from falling objects** - ensure that no objects can fall into moving parts
- **Create no new hazards** - must not have shear points, jagged edges or unfinished surfaces
- **Create no interference** - must not prevent worker from performing the job quickly and comfortably
- **Allow safe lubrication** - if possible, be able to lubricate the machine without removing the safeguards

***If you are responsible for operating machinery, always remember to inspect and ensure the safeguards are in place and operational.

***If you are responsible for working on machinery, it is critical that you understand all of the safeguards, follow lock out/tag out procedures, only remove the minimal amount of guards, and ensure they are reinstalled properly prior to clearing the LOTO.

By following these simple principles, and the specific policies of your work location, we can help prevent injuries in the workplace.

For more info: <http://www.freeshainfo.com/pubpages/mg.htm>



Remember... Safety Matters.

Comments and suggestions are always welcomed and encouraged.



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