

Pinch Points

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TOPIC: Pinch Points

General info

A Pinch Point is produced when 2 objects come together and there is a possibility that a person could be caught or injured when coming in contact with that area. Pinch points commonly impact fingers / hands, but can impact any area of the body. The injury resulting from a pinch point could be as minor as a blister or as severe as amputation or death. Conveyors, gears, loaders, compactors and other moving equipment are examples of machinery with pinch points.

Common Causes of Injuries from Pinch Points

- Not paying attention to the location of hands and feet
- Walking or working in areas with mobile equipment and fixed structures
- Loose clothing, hair or jewelry getting caught in rotating parts or equipment
- Poor condition of equipment and guarding
- Dropping or carelessly handling materials or suspended loads
- Not using the proper work procedures or tools
- Reaching into moving equipment and machinery

Safety Controls for Pinch Points

- ☑ Machine guarding: Verify all guarding is in place and effective
- ☑ Personal Protective Equipment: Heavy-duty leather gloves, metacarpal guards, forearm guards, etc. **Note: Do not wear gloves around rotating machinery**
- ☑ Pre-work inspection: Identify potential pinch points before starting work
- ☑ Stay in employee designated areas: Always make sure mobile equipment operators know your location
- ☑ Lockout / Tagout: Always verify the equipment is de-energized before starting any maintenance work
- ☑ Alertness: Drowsiness leads to inattentive work habits and shortcuts
- ☑ Operating manuals and work procedures: Always review these before starting work; pinch points may also be identified in these documents

Questions to Generate Discussion

- What are the most common sources of pinch points in your work area?
- What improvements can be made to machine guarding?

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

[illegible]

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