

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

Vol.23 | No.52 | Week of 12-24-24 PINCH POINTS

Date:	
Job Name:	

Pinch points are common workplace hazards that can lead to serious injury, amputations, and even death on the job site

We use our hands for virtually all work tasks that we do. Because of how often we use our hands, they are put in the line of fire where they can be injured. Hand injuries are the second leading type of injury on the job in the United States.

A pinch point is defined as any point where it is possible for a body part to be caught between moving and stationary portions of equipment. Pinch points are found in many places throughout a workplace. Tasks such as equipment maintenance, lifting materials, and assembly line work are just a few common tasks where pinch points are a common hazard.

Look for possible pinch points before you start a task. Take the time to plan out your actions and decide on the necessary steps to work safely. Give your work your full attention. Don't joke around, daydream, or try to multi-task on the job-most accidents occur when workers are distracted. Read and follow warning signs posted on equipment.

Machinery can pose a hazard with moving parts, conveyors, rollers and rotating shafts. Never reach into a moving machine. Properly maintain and always use the machine and tool guards provided with your equipment; they act as a barrier between the moving parts and your body. Don't reach around, under or through a guard and always report missing of broken barriers to your supervisor. Turn equipment off and use lockout/tagout procedures before adjusting, clearing a jam, repairing, or servicing a machine.

Vehicles, powered doors, and forklifts can pose a crush hazard unless they have been blocked or tagged out. Never place your body under or between powered equipment unless it is de-energized. Doors, file drawers, and heavy crates can pinch fingers and toes. Take care where you place your fingers. Test the weight before lifting, carrying, and placing boxes; an awkward or heavy load can slip and pinch your hands or feet. Get help or use tools to move large and/or heavy items.

If you have ever slammed your finger in a door, you can appreciate the pain associated with this common type of caught/crush injury. Take the time to learn about the caught/crush hazards in your workplace so you don't learn about the consequences first hand.

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Date:	Print:	Signature:
Job Name:		
	7 -2	