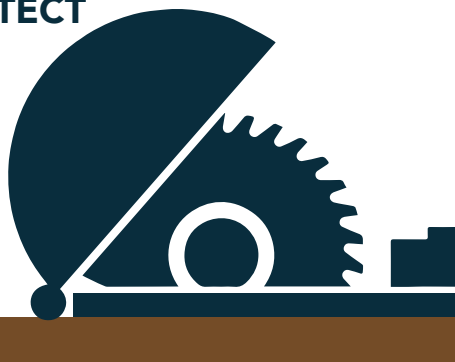


# CRUSH HAZARDS AND PINCH POINTS

IF YOU VALUE ALL THAT YOUR HANDS AND BODY CAN DO, THINK BEFORE YOU PUT THEM IN A HAZARDOUS SPOT. TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN ABOUT THE CRUSH AND PINCH POINT HAZARDS IN YOUR WORKPLACE SO YOU DO NOT LEARN ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES FIRST HAND.

- 1) THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF CRUSH AND PINCH POINT HAZARDS ON A WORKSITE.
- 2) THERE ARE MANY COMMON CAUSES FOR CRUSH AND PINCH POINT INJURIES.
- 3) THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CONTROL AND PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST CRUSH AND PINCH POINT HAZARDS.



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is good business

# CRUSH HAZARDS AND PINCH POINTS



## PINCH POINT HAZARDS

A pinch point is produced when two objects come together and there is a possibility that a person could be caught or injured when encountering 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, head spools, gears, loaders, compactors, and other moving parts are examples of equipment pinch points.

## CRUSH HAZARDS

A crushing hazard is a “caught-in” hazard, the danger to the worker rests in being caught between two objects. Where either one or both parts may be moving, and cause injury or death by physical crushing, pulling you in or suffocation.

Examples of potential crushing hazards include:

- Machinery that has unguarded moving parts. This is a common cause of not only fatal crushing incidents but also amputations. A hazard exists whenever workers can place any part of their body or clothing in the zone of danger, defined as where a machine’s moving parts are located.
- Materials that may shift or collapse and bury a worker. This can include substances like sawdust, dirt, grain, or objects like a vehicle perched on a jack.
- Situations where workers may become pinned between a moving object and a stationary one or between two moving objects.

## COMMON CAUSES OF INJURIES FROM CRUSH AND PINCH POINTS

- Not paying attention to the location of hands, feet or loose clothing
- 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 safeguarding
- Dropping or carelessly handling materials or suspended loads
- Not using the proper work procedures or tools
- Reaching into moving equipment and machinery

## CONTROLLING CRUSHING AND PINCH POINT HAZARDS

- Train workers to identify their caught-in, crush and pinch point hazards specific to their tasks, tools, and equipment.
- Look for all possible pinch points before you start any task.
- Give your work your full attention – avoid complacency or distractions.
- Read and follow warning signs posted on equipment.
- Turn equipment off and follow lock out procedures before adjusting, clearing a jam, repairing, or servicing equipment.
- Ensuring that equipment is always protected with compliant safeguards.
- Pay attention to your hands when around moving parts or objects that have the potential to move.
- Do not place your hands where you cannot see them.
- Wear the proper gloves for the task you are completing to reduce the amount of damage to your hands if they do end up in the line of fire.
- When working on equipment or machinery ensure they are properly locked out to prevent unexpected start up.
- Properly block any equipment or parts where stored energy could be released.
- When working with others make sure to communicate to let each other know if you are out of the line of fire before moving objects or starting up equipment.