

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

While re-seating a drive belt back onto a kiln fan shaft drive sheave, a millwright’s gloved pinky finger became caught between the belt and sheave. The belt was lodged between the fan shaft sheave and the belt guard backing plate.

The Millwright was pulling with his right hand on the wedged belt, while counter-rotating the sheave with his right foot and an Oiler was assisting. When the belt freed, the stored energy quickly accelerated the belt, pinching the Millwright’s finger.



SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Always release tension mechanically when removing belts from sheaves. Do not roll belts on to sheaves.
2. Continually assess hand and finger placement to ensure they are not placed in the bite during the task.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

When performing work on drive units always consider ‘stored energy’ as part of the pre-job hazard assessment.

