

SAFETY AROUND CONVEYORS

A conveyor is mechanized equipment with a stationary framework that transfers material from one area to another using rotating or vibrating belts, rollers, chains, etc. Conveyors may or may not be motorized and can be used overhead, underground or at working height. Transfer methods may include belts, buckets or other material-specific carriers.

Due to the nature of the moving parts and transferred material, conveyors can be hazardous and workers need to be cautious when working with or around them.

WHAT THINGS CAN YOU DO TO IMPROVE SAFETY?



BC Forest Safety

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Things You Can Do to Improve Safety Around Conveyors

- Verify machine guarding is always in place and in good condition.
- If working around an overhead conveyor, check for basin-type guarding under the conveyor. If none are in place, move away and always wear a hard hat.
- Do not wear loose clothing, long hair, jewellery or anything else that can get caught in a conveyor.
- Identify pinch-points and all rotating or moving parts before approaching the conveyor.
- Never perform maintenance work without performing the required Lockout /Tag-out procedure.
- Verify there is a way to stop the conveyor in case of emergency such as emergency pull-cords, which are typically installed adjacent to the conveyor path.
- Never overload the conveyor. Always conduct preventive maintenance tasks as scheduled and ensure adequate lubrication. Keep accurate maintenance records.
- Inspect the condition of belts, chains, links and gears. Check to ensure the belt is not fraying.
- If possible, stand away from the conveyor to avoid being struck by material and/or flying debris.
- Always wear the proper Personal Protective Equipment for the job. Eye protection is highly recommended. Coveralls, leather gloves, hard hats and steel-toed boots are also appropriate PPE for working around conveyors.

Generate a Discussion

What tasks cause the highest risk for injury when working with or around a conveyor?

What improvements can be made to conveyors that would improve the safety for these tasks?

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