

PINCH POINTS!

A pinch point is created when one or more objects move towards each other causing injury by crushing or shearing whatever comes between them. Common impact areas of pinch points are fingers and hands but they can impact any area of the body. An injury from a pinch point could be minor such as a blister or severe such as an amputation or even death. Examples of machinery with pinch points include conveyors, gears, loaders, compactors and other moving equipment.

Pinch Points

- Common Causes of Injuries from Pinch Points
- Safety Controls for Pinch Points



BC Forest Safety

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Common Causes of Injuries from Pinch Points

- Not paying attention to the location of your hands and feet.
- Walking or working in areas with mobile equipment and fixed structures.
- Loose clothing, hair or jewellery 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. *Caution: Do not wear gloves around rotating equipment.*
- 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/ Tag out: Always make sure mobile equipment is de-energized before starting any maintenance work.
- Alertness: Fatigue and distraction lead to absentmindedness and 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:

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

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