

# PERIMETER GUARDING IN SAWMILLS

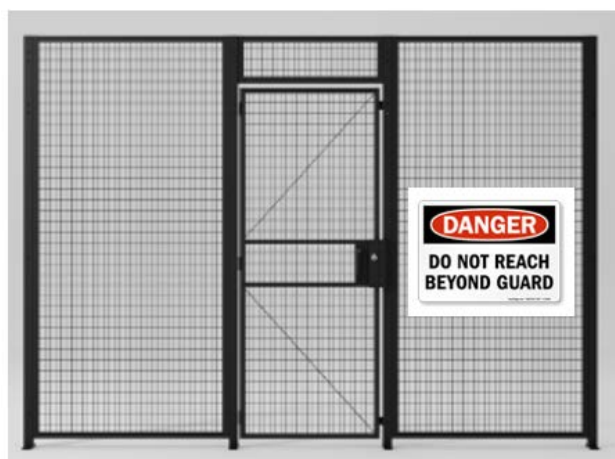
**Safeguarding, like perimeter guarding, is the first line of defense to ensure the safety of workers operating or working around powered machinery or equipment.**

## **WHY USE PERIMETER GUARDS?**

**Perimeter guards are used to keep workers safe and clear of hazardous areas. Humans make mistakes, machines malfunction, hazards exist. Putting safeguards in place helps minimize the risks of injury from mistakes or malfunctions.**

## **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

- **How to inspect perimeter guards**
- **Unknown hazards of perimeter safeguards**
- **Working the graveyard or weekend shift?**
- **New & young workers**



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# PERIMETER GUARDING



## REGULAR INSPECTIONS

**Perimeter guarding** is susceptible to deterioration in most manufacturing environments due to vibration, forklift damage, operator wear and tear and possible damage from ejected wood pieces from production machinery. During preventative maintenance inspections and clean-up activities, if guarding is found damaged (compromising worker safety), the guarding should be repaired or replaced immediately.

Workers should report any compromised guarding immediately to their supervisors.

## UNKNOWN HAZARDS of PERIMETER SAFEGUARDS

There are many types of perimeter safeguarding:

- A rope or chain restricting access,
- Short or tall fence or something as simple as a movable barricade.
- Signage attached informing workers the area is restricted or hazardous beyond the perimeter.

Sometimes perimeter signage is missing or is difficult to read, understand or can be vague. Perimeter safeguarding can be easy to by-pass or ignore.

Always be aware of areas on the other side of the perimeter safeguard. They are hazardous and you can be seriously injured if you by-pass or ignore the safeguarding signage. Also assume that reaching over, under or quickly by-passing the safeguard can lead to a serious injury.

## WORKING THE GRAVEYARD OR WEEKEND SHIFT?

When working graveyard or weekend shifts, workers need to be aware - at **NO TIME** should they be entering areas barricaded with perimeter guarding. This includes reaching in, around, through, over or under any barrier. If the machinery is not operating, significant hazards are still present and can lead to serious injuries.

- Obey all signage posted on the perimeter guarding. The only safe way to enter a restricted area is to lockout the equipment and inform all workers in the area that you will be entering the hazardous area.
- If you are unsure of the hazards, seek advice from your supervisor.

## NEW & YOUNG WORKERS

New & young workers sometimes start out in clean-up or jobs located in sawmill basements, under machinery, equipment or may work in isolation. Many times, these workers will be working in close proximity to perimeter safeguarding.

- Know and understand the hazards of your workplace.
- Ensure you are provided with adequate education and training to ensure you know when it's safe to go into restricted areas.
- Seek help from your supervisor whenever you enter a new or unknown area.
- Know how to lockout machinery and equipment so you are safe when performing your duties.

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