

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Life-altering Hand Injury

A planer feeder shut down the machine to investigate a jam near the outfeed roll and side heads. After completing the lockout procedure, the team member entered the planer room to remove a jammed board that was pinned by the outfeed roll.

They then exited the room, unlocked the machine, and restarted it to raise the outfeed roll. Once it was raised, they shut the machine down again and re-initiated the lockout—but did not re-verify that the lockout or confirm all parts had stopped rotating.

When they returned to the planer room to finish clearing the jam, their hand contacted a moving side head resulting in a life-altering injury.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Ensure the mag lock on the planer room door requires three conditions to unlock and it remains locked when equipment is running.
- Investigate and implement a maintenance-specific LOTO (Lockout/Tagout) mode that keeps feed rolls and cutting heads in the open position.
- Reinforce that LOTO verification is mandatory every time, regardless of how recently the equipment was re-energized.
- Update all Safe Work Procedures (SWPs) to include instructions for shutting down equipment from the operator console.
- Re-emphasize the importance of thorough hazard and risk assessments, especially when discrepancies arise.
- Test and document shutdown braking times to ensure safe access after lockout.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Before re-entering a planer room, always re-verify that the lockout is still in place and that all parts have stopped rotating.

