

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Right Hand Fingertips

An employee was shovelling sawdust into the return conveyor when dust accumulated on the cover of a crossover conveyor. Before crossing over the conveyor, the employee attempted to wipe the dust from the cover by hand.

While doing so, the employee’s right-hand glove and fingers got caught between the box-link chain and a hole in the conveyor cover. As a result, the ring fingertip sustained an injury, the middle fingertip suffered a minor tissue tear and the small fingertip was bruised.

Medical treatment was required to remove bone and close the wound on the right-hand ring fingertip.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Communicate with all crews to ensure tools are used for cleaning rather than hands
- Audit safeguards to confirm they effectively protect workers from contact with moving parts
- Assess the site to identify additional pinch points or guarding deficiencies and prioritize repairs
- Review the safety inspection process
- Investigate the source of the waste material and identify methods to improve containment in this area

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Ensure hazard assessments are thorough and lockout verification procedures are regularly reviewed and followed.

Staying alert and avoiding complacency, particularly during repetitive tasks, is essential to maintaining workplace safety.

