

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Mechanical Failure - Planer

During post-holiday start-up testing, the planer's bottom head ejected its knives, causing a catastrophic failure that damaged the stator and knocked out power to the facility.

The failure occurred because the bottom knives changed during maintenance had not been torqued.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Discuss the risks of complacency and distractions during repetitive or routine tasks with crews.
- Add torque wrench calibration and verification procedures to the monthly preventive maintenance schedule.
- Consider installing vibration sensors on all high-speed rotating equipment.
- Implement verification steps, such as a two-person check, for high-risk or sensitive machine set-ups.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Complacency, driven by overconfidence from repetition, can lead to skipped steps or overlooked details.