

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.

To prevent incidents, critical tasks must be completed without interruption and verification steps must be followed every time.

