

PINCH POINTS AND NIP POINTS

The equipment we work around often has moving parts that create pinch and nip points that are easy to miss. Rollers, belts, sprockets, chains, hinges, conveyors, gates, clamps, presses and moving tables may appear harmless until a hand, sleeve, glove, rag or tool is caught.

These points can catch, pull-in, pinch or crush much faster than a person can react. Before reaching in, take a moment to identify where moving parts could create a hazard and clear, adjust, clean or guide material safely.

IF IT CAN PULL, PINCH, CRUSH OR CATCH - THEN KEEP YOUR HANDS, CLOTHING AND TOOLS CLEAR.

- WHERE PINCH AND NIP POINTS HIDE
- WHAT CAN GET CAUGHT
- HOW TO WORK SAFELY AROUND THEM



BC Forest Safety
Safety is **good** business

PINCH POINTS AND NIP POINTS



WHERE PINCH AND NIP POINTS HIDE

- A pinch point is any place where a body part can be trapped between moving and fixed parts, or between a moving object and materials. Common examples include doors, clamps, hydraulic presses, feed gates, presses, metal hoods, lift tables, hinges, etc.
- A nip point is any location where two rotating parts, rotating and stationary parts, or parts moving toward each other converge. Common examples include rotating gears like chains and sprockets, rollers, belts and pulleys, moving machine guards, conveyors, etc.
- Look for places where material feeds in, where equipment changes direction or pulls through, where belts wrap around rollers and where parts are close together.

WHAT CAN GET CAUGHT

- Hands and fingers are at the highest risk because they are often closest to the hazard points.
- Loose sleeves, gloves, cuffs, strings, lanyards, jewellery, hair, rags and cleaning cloths can be caught and pulled in.
- A glove might protect against some cuts, but they won't stop a rotating part from pulling your hand into a nip point.
- Tools can also get pulled in and pull the worker with them.

HOW TO WORK SAFELY AROUND THEM

- **Stop and look:** Before starting a task, locate where all parts move together or where a moving part passes a fixed point.
- **Keep guards in place:** Do not remove, bypass or reach around safety guards.
- **Use the right tool:** Use approved push tools, clearing devices and proper procedures. Avoid placing hands near moving parts.
- **Control energy:** Lock out equipment and verify zero energy before cleaning, clearing jams, adjusting or reaching into a hazard area.
- **Keep clear:** Maintain hand placement, body position
- **Secure loose items:** Remove or secure loose clothing and jewellery and tie-up or keep hair contained.
- **Speak up:** Stop work and report any areas that lack guards, are unmarked or if you are unsure of the hazard.

REMEMBER

Pinch points and nip points are not always obvious, but can injure instantly. Before reaching in, ask: What moves? What closes? What rotates? What pulls?

If anything can get caught, stop, keep clear, guard it or lock it out ... and if you're unsure, then get help before reaching in.



Guards Off /
Hands Off Series

Scan the QR
code to
access all
BCFSC Crew
Talks and to
subscribe.

