MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Inadequate Guarding, Signage and Lockout - Fatality

An employee climbed onto a running shavings conveyor to access and grease a bearing on an adjacent residual conveyor.

The conveyor was fully sealed and equipped with lightweight burst panels designed to give way under minimal pressure in the event of a combustible dust explosion.

After greasing the bearing, the employee stepped or stumbled onto one of the panels. The panel gave way causing them to fall into the moving conveyor and suffer fatal injuries.





SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- **Review and ensure all greasing points are at ground level**. Employees should not have to climb on or over equipment to access grease points, if at all possible.
- **Guard and add signage** to all burst panels to ensure access to burst panels is restricted and employees are aware of the hazard. Burst panels are designed to relieve pressure during a combustible dust event and are not intended to hold a person's weight. Burst panels should be clearly marked to indicate that they are not load-bearing surfaces and must not be stepped on.
- **Lockout before conveyor access:** Enclosed conveyors present the same hazards as exposed conveyors and must be locked out before any access, inspection, maintenance or work is performed on or around them. Employees should never assume equipment is safe simply because moving parts are not visible.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

If you don't fully understand the hazards or are unsure how to perform the work safely, STOP and reassess before proceeding.

MAG Manufacturing Advisory Group

BC Forest Safety

BCFSC welcomes all incident or near-miss submissions. To protect your privacy, we will review and remove all identifying information.

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