



A Rock and a Hard Place

4/28/21

Each year hundreds, even thousands, of workers suffer pinching or crushing injuries in accidents involving moving parts—and that doesn't include the thousands of near misses that go unreported. Sometimes the consequences are minor: a torn shirt, a pinched finger, or a sore foot. Other times the injuries are more severe: an amputated finger, the scalp pulled off the skull, or death by crushing. These accidents and their consequences, whether minor or severe, **can** be avoided; and **you** have the power to avoid them. All you need to do is pay attention and take action.

Moving-part danger zones can be found on any jobsite. There are two dangers that you should watch for. One is getting all or part of you crushed between two objects. Never stand between a piece of equipment or a load and a fixed object like a wall, pillar, vehicle, or another load. Stay clear of the swing radius of equipment like cranes and backhoes. In general, stay clear of heavy equipment when it is moving. If you are nearby, make sure that the operator can see you and **knows** where you are. Make sure that you look for and avoid pinch points.

The other danger is getting caught on a moving part and pulled into a machine. Many of you work around belts, gears, shafts, pulleys, sprockets, spindles, drums, flywheels, and chains. Entanglement accidents can be disabling and disfiguring. Check yourself first. Take off rings, necklaces,

and bracelets. If you have long hair or a long beard, tie it back so that it cannot get entangled. Remove or protect other clothing that could be a problem like hoods, long sleeves, drawstrings, ties (especially on visitors), frayed cuffs, and shoelaces. Make absolutely certain that **all guards are in place** anytime the machine is operating.

You must lock out equipment and machinery before starting to work on it. Lockout/tagout is one of the best ways to prevent crushing and many other kinds of injuries when performing set-up, maintenance, and repair tasks. The equipment should be completely locked out and tested before you remove the first guard or access panel. Never bypass or over-ride safety interlocks to test a piece of equipment.

Any time there is the potential for a crushing or entanglement injury start by identifying the hazard. Then take the necessary precautions to prevent the accident. Continue to pay attention to the hazard. Accidents happen when your mind is out in left field and you are in a danger zone.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Steel-toed work boots will prevent smashed toes.

If you don't have steel-toed boots or if you only need temporary protection try steel toe caps.

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED SDS #

SUBJECT:

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME:

MEETING DATE:

SUPERVISOR:

ATTENDEES:

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.