



Timber Times

Partners for Healthy Forests

SEPTEMBER 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Pinch Point Safety
- How to Prevent Pinch Point Accidents
- Keep Your Guard Up
- LO/TO
- Helpful Links
- Bad Safety Photos

Safety Flyer

Hello All,

At the recent CTIA Annual Meeting in May, the board decided to continue the monthly safety flyer. Safety has always been a primary focus for CTIA and it is a critical component to keep our workman comp rates at a reasonable level.

If you have contractors or fellow loggers who are not CTIA members, we would be happy to add them to our list. Our goal is safety industry wide!

If you find an interesting article or an OSHA related issue, please share with me so that I can send to our larger list.

Hope this helps improve your safety program.

Molly

The Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA) is an association of small, family-owned businesses committed to logging, processing and performing service work in the forests of Colorado. We are exceptional partners to the public and private stewards of our valuable and beautiful forests. We embrace Best Management Practices (BMPs) and sustainable forestry. To meet these values, we host annual continuing education classes on BMPs and conduct field audits to demonstrate our accountability to high quality, active management designed to promote long term forest health.

Pinch Point Safety

Don't get in a Pinch

When you pinch a finger at home or away from work, it's usually no more than a painful nuisance. But pinches in the workplace can be a lot more serious. There is no comparing the power of a slammed screen door with the force of industrial machinery. Each year, workers suffer approximately 125,000 caught or crushed injuries that occur when body parts get caught between two objects or entangled with machinery. A pinch-point injury on the job can range from bruises and cuts to more seriously disabling amputation, or even death.

"Pinch points" are present in most mechanical devices that, in its operation, might pose a risk of injury to body parts. A pinch point is defined as any point where it is possible for a body part to be caught between moving and stationary portions of equipment. Pinch points can occur anywhere a part of the body can get caught between two objects. This hazard is everywhere in the workplace. Any place where equipment is transmitting energy, there is a pinch point.

Shortcuts Lead to Danger

Often pinch-point injuries are the result of workers, who are not properly trained, don't realize the dangers of machinery, or take shortcuts to get the work done more quickly, but end up injuring themselves instead. *Never perform a task without proper training, by taking shortcuts, or bypassing procedures; the consequences could be serious.*



How to Prevent Pinch Point Accidents

In order to **prevent accidents** involving pinch points the following must be instilled into our every day's job:



- Use the right tool for the job
- Identify possible pinch point hazards in your work area
- Concentrate on objects that move or capable of moving. Ask yourself, "What will happen if this moves? Will I be in the path of that movement?"
- Be aware of pinch points created by objects that move and come into direct or close contact with relatively fixed objects (e.g., equipment placed close to pipeline or concrete, container docks, or suspended loads near fixed or mobile equipment). Ask yourself, "If this load moves or shifts unexpectedly, will I be in the way?"
- Be on guard whenever you put your hands, fingers, toes, or feet "between" anything.
- Discuss and point out pinch point hazards as part of your risk assessment and toolbox meetings.
- Make sure your hands are placed where you can see them.
- Never operate equipment or machinery without the required machine guards. Guards are designed to prevent contact with pinch points and points of operation.
- Never place yourself or any part of your body in a potential pinch point area unless protective measures are provided for such activity. When reaching in to operate a control or reaching for an object, consider where your body parts are located. If it is within a pinch point, identify an alternative position or make sure all movable parts are fixed in place.
- Identify possible pinch point hazards in your work area

Keep Your Guard Up

- In addition to making sure that workers understand how potentially dangerous pinch points can be, it is important to ensure equipment is properly guarded to keep workers away from hazardous areas. This can happen even before equipment is purchased. New equipment should be evaluated with a safety checklist based on input from engineers, workers, and safety personnel. The manufacturer should be asked to make adjustments to eliminate hazards before the equipment is purchased.
- Once equipment has been purchased and installed, it is important to monitor workers' behavior to ensure that they are not exposing themselves to risk of injury. Under normal operating conditions, workers tend to remain within the parameters of safe operation. It is when upset or abnormal operations are encountered that workers have a tendency to unnecessarily expose themselves to pinch-point hazards.
- Just because a guard has been installed to cover a machine pinch point doesn't mean the guard is going to stay there. Removing guards is, unfortunately, a fairly common practice. In some cases, guards can be missing for such a long time that new employees are not aware a guard is required. ***It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that all moving parts on equipment and machinery are properly guarded.***



Proper Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Reduces Pinch Point Hazards

Machinery can pose a hazard with moving parts, conveyors, rollers and rotating shafts. Never reach into a moving machine. Properly maintain and always use the machine and tool guards provided with your equipment; they act as a barrier between the moving parts and your body. Don't reach around, under or through a guard and always report missing or broken barriers to your supervisor.

Because pinch-point injuries often occur when a machine is being stopped temporarily for service or cleaning, it is extremely important that workers follow necessary procedures for lockout and tagout (LOTO). Workers can follow guard policies for when the machine is running, but when it's stopped and the guard is removed, if the equipment is not de-energized, a worker is not safe.



Everyone's Responsibility

The best protection from pinch-point hazards comes not from procedures, but from the personal attention of employers and workers to potential hazards.

- Review the dangers of pinch points and the procedures for working safely on a regular basis.
- Perform frequent, targeted inspections to ensure that guards are not missing and procedures are being followed.
- Reward employees for identifying and reporting hazards and quickly resolve those hazards.



Safety is everyone's responsibility and should not be learned by accident.



Helpful Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrgsTLe8gIo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htJj5mPgNs>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spHswAWJ_L4

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3170/osha3170.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3170.pdf>

