

PINCH POINTS

It is a common misconception that pinch injuries cannot be serious. In fact, pinch point injuries can be deadly, and they are one of the most common types of on-the-job accidents. Pinch point hazards are particularly difficult to guard against because they are everywhere. In many cases, they can be prevented by using engineering controls or personal protective equipment (PPE).

Keep Safety in Mind

Pinch point accidents account for about 15 percent of all OSHA recordable injuries. Care, caution and alertness on the job are the best defenses against pinch point injuries.

Here are the top five things you need to know about pinch points:

1. Type of controls

Identify objects in the workplace that move and come in contact with fixed objects. Use the following to control those pinch points:

- Administrative
- Elimination
- Engineering
- PPE

2. Administrative

Know how to turn off equipment immediately in case of an emergency. Employees should be trained on pinch point hazards as well as ways to controls those hazards. Inspect your work area and look for potential pinch points.

3. Elimination

If it is possible, eliminate the pinch point. Take it out of commission. Eliminate the hazard completely. Refrain from wearing jewelry or loose clothing, and always tie long hair back. These items can potentially get caught in machines.

4. Engineering

This could include physical barriers such as machine guards, barricades or warning devices. Lockout Tagout should always be used during maintenance. Secure materials so they cannot fall by strapping, racking or interlocking them down.

5. PPE

PPE is the last defense with pinch points. Ensure that you are always wearing your safety gear and inspect it before each use.

Discussion

- 1. Where in your work areas have a pinch point?**
- 2. What have you done to control the pinch point?**
- 3. Can anyone share an experience?**

Training Name: **PINCH POINTS**

Date of Training: _____

Print Name

Sign Name
