

Machinery – Equipment Maintenance

Types of Accidents

Supervisors are required to alert their teams to dangers that workers may encounter during the performance of their job. Machinery accidents can typically be categorized into three headings:

1. Moving machinery

Workers can become hung in gears, levers, rollers, and conveyors.

2. Power sources

Workers can be harmed by power sources such as springs, hydraulic or air pressure, or electricity.

3. Machinery

Workers can be harmed by falling from or bumping into machinery. Falls or slips are typically caused by slippery or unstable surfaces.

Machine Safety Tips

- Prior to beginning any machine repairs, turn off and lockout the power source. Properly tag the machine.
- Never allow machinery to operate during routine maintenance such as lubrication unless lube points are located remotely and the manufacturer has issued safety procedures for the activity.
- Never attempt to repair or reach into the machine, even if it is turned off, unless it is locked out and tagged. It is too easy for another worker to turn the power back on before you are noticed.
- Be alert for sources of potential energy such as tension springs, hydraulic systems, batteries, or electrical condensers. These potential energy sources can start mechanical components without notice. Isolate and neutralize any power sources.
- Ensure that your flooring is non-slip.
- Don't overreach during task performance. Find an alternate route to the point of lubrication.

- Appropriate clothing should be worn.
 - ◆ Do not wear loose or baggy clothing or jewelry that can become snagged on machinery or tools.
 - ◆ Wear safety goggles to avoid dirt, chemicals, or other objects from harming the eyes. Side shields or mono-goggles may be necessary as well.
 - ◆ Immediately clean any liquids or material which could cause a danger of slipping or fire.



Show It Off

Display locks and lockout devices that are typically used by your department. Review the company's specific procedures.

Start the Conversation

Ask someone to identify the procedure to discover a small hydraulic leak (Answer: using a piece of cardboard or other absorbent, readily observable material rather than sliding a hand along the line.)

- Ask someone to identify specific machinery that should be locked out prior to repair.
- Ask if anyone has had or knows someone who has had a machine lubrication accident.

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