

Spotlight On Safety

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Shop Safety

Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate approximately 155 people die every year from being caught in, crushed by, or injured from hazardous contact with machinery. Machine related injuries were the second-leading cause of job fatalities between 1980 and 1995. A 39 year-old machine operator died when he was struck in the abdomen by a piece of metal that came from the punch press he was operating. He was using the machine to center punch holes into metal plates. The machine guarding was in place but was not properly adjusted. The following tips can help prevent these injuries.

Machine Safety

- “Follow the Five” steps of the Integrated Safety and Environmental Management (ISEM) system when planning and conducting any activity involving machinery (it is important to identify and assess activities conducted by the operator to ensure that hazards are controlled – the presence of machine guards does not ensure safety!)
- Know the proper use and limitations of machinery. Manufacturers are a good source of information and guidance. Contact EH&S for assistance
- CAL/OSHA regulations require all machinery and equipment to be inspected, maintained, and used properly (Title 8, Section 3328. Machinery and Equipment - www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3328.html)

Machine Safe Guarding

- Before using, always inspect the machine or equipment to ensure presence, proper condition and alignment of guards. Be alert for any unusual noises, motion, or operation
- If the machine or equipment fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor or class instructor. Do not attempt to use the equipment or machinery until a qualified person has returned the machinery to service or replaced it

Operating Precautions

- Only trained and authorized employees or students may use machinery or equipment
- Personal protective equipment needs to be properly used and maintained as required
- Always tie back or secure hair under a cap before operating machinery. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry
- Before operating machinery or equipment, look around to ensure operating area (Safety Zone) is clear of other operators, materials, or debris. Good housekeeping is important!
- Always make sure machinery or equipment is completely stopped and secured when going for lunch, conducting repairs or adjustments, or at the end of the day
- Never work on machinery or equipment that is electrically energized or capable of inadvertent movement

Additional resources for Shop Safety can be found at www.ehsucr.edu/safety
Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information or call EH&S at 827-5528 if you have any questions.