

Protecting Hands and Fingers

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The capabilities of our hands and fingers place human beings above the other animals. Certain species of apes have hands, fingers and thumbs, but no species can touch their little fingers with their thumbs. This simple fact sets us apart. While our fingers are possibly the most used parts of our bodies, they are also the most mistreated.

It will be helpful to review a list of hand and finger safety precautions. Of course, we must realize that each job has its own hazards, to a greater or lesser degree.

Let's talk about those potentially dangerous situations in our jobs:

1. Never put your hands or fingers on loads being moved mechanically without watching for pinch points and other potential hazards.
2. Wear gloves only when there is exposure to hazards that could produce cuts or scrapes or to chemical hazards that could produce injuries or skin diseases. Do not wear them around reciprocating or rotating machine parts; gloves can be caught up, and fingers and hands can be pulled into the machine.
3. Never use hands to stop rotating parts.
4. Never use fingers to align holes in parts, like castings.
5. Don't wear rings on the job. Any jewelry can be dangerous.
6. Use fuse removers to pull fuses, not your fingers.
7. When lifting, check objects for protrusions, nails, splinters, screws, metal banding, or other sharp or pointed objects.
8. Watch your fingers and hands when lowering heavy loads; they could get pinched.
9. Adjust grinder tool rests properly (no further than 1/8 inch away from the wheel) to avoid getting a finger into the gap or having the work piece hurled at you or your co-workers.
10. Never use your fingers to test the temperatures of gases, liquids, or solids. Damage can happen before your reflexes remove your fingers.
11. When handling large metal drums, watch out for pinch points and sharp edges; one drum can roll against another, catching your fingers in between.
12. Handle very sharp or pointed tools, like hatchets, chisels, punches, awls, knives and machine blades with extreme care.

Avoid using your fingers to fish out things lying near saw blades, knife blades, parts moving together, such as a punch press, rotating parts of drill bits and reciprocating parts of in-running rolls, since this can be hazardous. Of course, machinery parts should be guarded.

GENERAL SAFETY REVIEW

This is a time to review all safety concerns, not just today's topic. Keep your notes on this page before, during and after the safety meeting.

Are you aware of any safety hazards from any other crews? Point out any hazards other crews are creating that this crew should know about. Tell the crew what you intend to do about those hazards.

Do we have any other safety business? Discuss any past issues or problems. Report any progress of investigations and action taken.

Have there been any accidents, near misses or complaints? Discuss any accidents, near misses, and complaints that have happened since the last safety meeting. Also recognize the safety contributions made by members of the crew.

Please remember, we want to hear from you about any health and safety issues that come up. If we don't know about problems, we can't take action to fix them.

ENDING THE MEETING

Circulate Sign-Off Form.

Assign one or more crew member(s) to help with next safety meeting.

Refer action items for follow-up.

Do you have any Safety Recommendations?

Do you have any Job Specific Topics you would like us to discuss?

Comments
