



## TOOLBOX TALK: PINCH POINTS

# Don't Get In a Pinch

When you pinch your finger in the screen door, it's a painful nuisance. Getting your finger caught in a piece of machinery, is another story. It can cause serious injuries, including amputation or even death. Pinch points can occur on any part of the body when caught between two objects.

### REDUCE THE RISKS OF PINCH POINT HAZARDS

#### SHORTCUTS CAN LEAD TO DANGER

Pinch point injuries can occur when workers don't take the proper safety precautions because they're not properly trained, try to get the work done too quickly or are unaware of the dangers of machinery. Never perform a task without proper training, and never try to bypass safety procedures.

#### GUARDS & INSPECTIONS

Ensure that equipment has proper guards in place to keep workers away from hazardous areas. New equipment should be evaluated with a safety checklist prior to being used. Any pinch points should be identified and marked.

As time goes on and equipment becomes well used, it is important to ensure guards and safety devices are working properly. Removing guards is common but must be prevented.

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

While training and reviewing procedures are helpful, attention to safety by employers and workers is the key to avoiding injuries. Identifying and resolving hazards can prevent injuries.

**Safety is everyone's responsibility.**

#### REMEMBER:

- Review the dangers of pinch points and the procedures for working safely on a regular basis.
- Perform frequent, targeted inspections to ensure guards are not missing and proper procedures are being followed.
- Encourage employees to communicate safety concerns to help avoid accidents before they happen. Take action to quickly resolve those hazards.
- Utilize proper lockout/tagout procedures to help reduce the potential for pinch points. Make sure all equipment is locked out prior to working on any part of the equipment.
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, like safety glasses and safety shoes.
- Ensure clothing is properly fitted to prevent it from getting caught in machinery or moving parts.

# We Are Here

Do you have a question about safety and health? Contact us and we can assist you.  
[safeatwork.mo.gov](http://safeatwork.mo.gov)

I understand the information presented and the importance of taking precautions to avoid pinch point hazards. I will work in a safe and responsible manner.

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEE NAME:

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE:

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Learn more ways to keep your workplace safe.  
Visit [safeatwork.mo.gov](http://safeatwork.mo.gov).

