

Pinch Points

A Pinch Point is produced when two objects come together and there is a possibility that a person could be caught or injured when coming into contact with that area. Pinch points commonly impact fingers and hands, but can impact any area of the body. The injury resulting from a pinch point could be as minor as a blister or as severe as amputation or death. Conveyors, gears, loaders, compactors and other moving equipment are examples of machinery with pinch points.

Common Causes of Injuries from Pinch Points

- Not paying attention to the location of hands and feet
- Walking or working in areas with mobile equipment and fixed structures
- Loose clothing, hair or jewelry getting caught in rotating parts or equipment
- Poor condition of equipment and guarding
- Dropping or carelessly handling materials or suspended loads
- Not using the proper work procedures or tools
- Reaching into moving equipment and machinery

Safety Controls for Pinch Points

- Machine guarding: Verify all guarding is in place and effective
- Personal Protective Equipment: Heavy-duty leather gloves, forearm guards
- Pre-work inspection: Identify potential pinch points before starting work
- Stay in employee designated areas: Always make sure mobile equipment operators know your location
- Lockout / Tagout: Always verify the equipment is de-energized

Eliminating access to pinch points in your operation would be one way to reduce potential injury.

Produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
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Comments/questions?
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October 30, 2012