



SAFETY

Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

Be Aware of Pinch Points

Terry Jones sent me an email with a picture and details of an incident that occurred recently. You may have seen it. It involved a man whose arm was run through the bending roller of the sag weight of a conveyor. The guy was lucky that he only lost his shirt!

It seems that the belt of the conveyor was tracking to one side and the guy was investigating while the conveyor was in operation. For some unknown reason, the man stuck his arm in the pinch area and his arm was pulled into the pinch point. Luckily his arm was released after passing over the roller!

Several safety rules were violated and Terry reviewed them in his bulletin, but they warrant another mention:

Guarding—there should be a guard on every pinch point! In general, if you can reach a pinch point, then there should be a guard to prevent that possibility. We should probably demand more from our construction crews when the equipment is built, but site personnel have a responsibility to notice these things as well. When new equipment is going up, each of us has a right to demand that the job be completed, and completed safely. Retro fitting older plants should get high priority.

Lock and Tag-out Equipment—adjustments and servicing of equipment should only be accomplished after the equipment is locked and tagged out-of-service. The ONLY exception to this is if the individual has been trained and is experienced in the adjusting procedures and can perform the duties safely. Which brings us to:

Training and Experienced Individuals—only trained and experienced individuals should be

allowed to adjust and maintain our equipment. A part of the training has to include that **ABSOLUTELY NO ONE** should ever reach into operating equipment.

I don't know who the individual was or which plant was involved, but this provides an excellent opportunity for a warning to all employees about the hazards of moving equipment and pinch points. **Stop and think about what you are doing! Safety begins with YOU!**

Lock-out / Tag-out

The article about pinch points is a good way into a review of lockout/tagout. What does it mean when you hear lockout/tagout? I hope that you think about all of the possibilities for becoming caught in equipment. For example, what would happen if there were an individual inside of the drum of a ready mix truck and someone started that truck? What would happen if someone were in a bin or hopper and the feed mechanism was started or a bucket of material were dumped into the hopper? What would happen if someone were changing a switch or a starter in an electrical circuit and someone else turned the power back on? What would happen if someone was clearing a jam in an air powered gate and someone pushed the button to close the gate? You can imagine the consequences! Lockout/tagout can prevent these type of injuries.

We have a formal written Lock-out/Tag-out policy with instructions on safe procedures. I encourage you to review that policy. Also think about what you are doing and what the possible consequences might be. Look out for your fellow employees. Make sure no one is in harm's way when starting equipment.

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For What it is Worth!

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I am an engineer, so it is safe for me to tell this!

Two engineering students were walking across campus when one says, "Where did you get such a great bike?"

The second engineering student replied, "well, I was walking along yesterday when a beautiful woman rode up, threw this bike to the ground, stripped off all her clothes, and said to me," "Take whatever you want."

The first young man nodded approvingly, "good choice, the clothes probably wouldn't have fit!"

More For What it is Worth!

A little old lady walked up to the luncheonette counter and ordered a hamburger. The burly counterman bellowed over his shoulder, "one burger!"

Whereupon the grill cook grabbed a hand full of ground meat, stuffs it into his bare armpit, pumps it a few times to squeeze it flat, and then tosses on the griddle.

"That's the most disgusting thing I have ever seen in my life!" exclaimed the little old lady.

"Oh Yeah?" says the counter man, "you should be here in the morning to see him make doughnuts."

