

Pinch Points Toolbox Talk



"Pinch points" are machine, tool, and material points so named because they can pinch some part of your body between two moving parts or between one part that is moving and one part standing still. Pinch points are among the most common hazards in the workplace and they are the cause of many serious types of injuries, from scrapes and bruises to broken bones and worse.

Recently, a worker was crushed to death while working on a construction site when a 10-ton piece of material was mishandled and fell on him. That was a pinch point accident.

In another instance, a pair of pliers slipped and pinched a worker's hand, which caused a blood blister.

Between these two extremes lie hundreds of pinch point situations in industry. And these are just a few examples of injuries sustained because of these pinch points on record.

Some pinch points are offered by equipment in operation. These areas are guarded as a matter of regulation by OSHA and by your state safety and health agencies. Other pinch points are created by worker activity and it would be impossible to guard all of these, even if we could figure out what each one was.

Pinch points that are not guarded will be found just about everywhere that you look. Material handling exposes you to pinch points, extension ladders can create serious pinch points when the rungs sliding past each other can potentially catch fingers, hands and feet. Pinch points such as these that don't say "danger" in an obvious way, are all the more likely to cause some harm. On the other hand some pinch point hazards come from carelessness or inexperience. Remember, **awareness** and **care** is your only safeguard when exposed to unguarded pinch points.

Discuss some potential pinch points involved in your area and ask employees for safety suggestions.

AWARENESS AND CARE IS YOUR ONLY SAFEGUARD WHEN EXPOSED TO PINCH POINTS.

Pinch Points Quiz

1. Pinch points are among the most common hazards in the workplace and they are the cause of many types of injuries including scrapes & bruises, broken bones, and even fatalities.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Pinch points are created by both moving and still-standing parts and objects.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Pinch points created by _____ are regulated by OSHA standards and/or state safety & health agencies.
 - a. Standing walls
 - b. Tools
 - c. Machinery, cranes, etc.
 - d. All of the above
 - e. B & C only

Answer Key

1. A; 2. A; 3. E

SAMPLE