

PLAYING IT **SAFE**

Be safe and healthy on the job with these helpful tips provided by
Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd

Protect Yourself Against Amputation Hazards

Avoid serious injury with these tips

Amputations are some of the most serious and debilitating types of construction injuries and can be caused by a wide variety of activities and equipment. They frequently occur when workers operate unguarded or inadequately safeguarded machinery or when workers are not paying enough attention to the job at hand. Amputation injuries can also occur during materials-handling activities and when using forklifts and powered and non-powered hand tools.

What Types of Machine Components are Hazardous?

- Point of operation: The area of the machine performing the work.
- Power-transfer apparatuses: Flywheels, pulleys, belts, chains, couplings, spindles, cams and gears.
- Machine components that move during operation—reciprocating, rotating and transverse-moving parts.

What Types of Mechanical Motions are Hazardous?

- Rotating: circular movement of couplings, cams, clutches, flywheels and spindles; also rotating collars that may grip clothing or otherwise force a body part into a dangerous location.
- Reciprocating: back-and-forth or up-and-down action that may strike or entrap a worker between a moving part and a fixed object.

- Transverse: movement in a straight, continuous line that may strike or catch a worker in a pinch or shear point created between the moving part and a fixed object.
- Cutting: action generated during sawing, boring, drilling, milling, slicing and slitting.
- Shearing: movement of a powered slide or knife during metal trimming and shearing.
- Bending: action occurring when power is applied to a slide to draw or form metal, or other materials.

What Protections Can Reduce Amputation Hazards?

Proper work practices, administrative controls and training can help prevent and control amputation hazards. In addition:

- Never bypass, remove or tamper with machine guards. Guards should not obstruct your view or prevent other employees from working safely.
- Safety devices help prevent contact with points of operation or may replace guards. Do not remove or tamper with devices put in place to protect you from amputations. When used properly, they will interrupt the normal cycle of the machine when your hands are at the point of operation, prevent you from reaching into the point of operation or withdraw your hands if they approach the point of operation when the machine cycles.



Use Equipment Responsibly

Serious injuries often result from a worker using equipment incorrectly, not paying enough attention to the job, removing guards or safety devices or not following proper safety procedures. Use all equipment responsibly and how it is meant to be used.



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