## Pinch Points

**General Info**

A pinch point is produced when two (2) objects come together and there is a possibility that a person could be caught or injured when coming in contact with that area. Pinch points commonly impact fingers/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 an amputation or death. Conveyors, gears, loaders, compactors and other moving equipment are examples of machinery with pinch points.  Also, getting caught between a large farm animal could create a pinch point.

**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



**⚠ WARNING**

**Pinch Points.**

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**Safety Controls for Pinch Points**

- Machine guarding: Verify all guarding is in place and effective
- Personal Protective Equipment to consider: Gloves, Sound Foot Protection, etc.  **Note: Do not wear gloves around rotating equipment**
- 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/ Tag out: Always make sure mobile equipment is de-energized before starting any maintenance work
- Alertness: Drowsiness leads to inattentive work habits and shortcuts
- Operating manuals and work procedures: Always review these before starting work; pinch points may also be identified in these documents

**Questions to Generate Discussion:**

- What are the most common sources of pinch points in your work area?
- If applicable, what improvements can be made to machine guarding?

| Toolbox Topic: | Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) | |
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| Work Unit: | | February 2018 |
| User ID (Initials) | Name (Print) | Signature |
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