proActive Safety Services

Weekly Safety Meeting

Train. Protect. Prevent.

Machine Guarding

Machine guarding is on The Occupational Health and Safety Administration's radar!

Machine guarding was the ninth most cited infraction from OSHA in the year 2015. Machine guards are put in place to defend an employee against machine operation hazards. To modify or to remove a guard creates a hazardous work condition and is unacceptable. According to OSHA this is also the reason for over 18,000 amputations, lacerations, and abrasions, as well as over 800 deaths. Often people do not report or record these accidents as OSHA requires, so these numbers may be lower than how many people were injured by incorrect machine guarding.

How should I work with machine guards?

Inspect every machine guard to ensure it is firmly in place. Never under any circumstance remove a guard when using a machine. Always report missing or damaged guards. If a guard is damaged make sure to shut down the machine and have a qualified person inspect it. That guard may need to be replaced before you are able to resume operations.

Is it acceptable to remove the guard from a grinder?

Definitely not, we see this a lot when we conduct inspections. Removing the guard on a grinder is risky business. When the guard is removed there is nothing to protect you from the wheel breaking or flying particles created using the grinder. Use common sense, the guard is there for a reason. Leave the guard on the tool.

Hazards associated with guard removal or modification include:

Open blades.

Projectiles towards the operator.

Possible amputation or death.

It is an OSHA violation.

Puts everyone in the work area at risk.

Can anyone contribute a time that machine guarding was involved in your work? Can anyone recall a near miss or accident that could've been prevented?

Work Site Review: **Hazards/Safety Suggestions**

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_____

Company Name: _____ Work Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Employee Signatures: **(continue on back of sheet if necessary)**

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced , or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness)

Manager/Supervisor's Signature: _____

Disclaimer: The information and suggestions contained in these safety talks are believed to be reliable. However, the authors of the topics and the owners of this web site accept no legal responsibility for the correctness, sufficiency, or completeness of such information or suggestions contained within these topics. These guidelines do not super cede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations

4840 Business Center Way Cincinnati, OH 45246 phone 877.209.9648 fax 513.297.2347 www.pasafety.com