

PPE and Other Machine Safety Tips

Besides the mechanical dangers, machines present a variety of hazards. Protect yourself from other machine-related hazards by using personal protective equipment.

Ear protection. Machinery noise can cause hearing loss, make it difficult to communicate and can disrupt your concentration. Earplugs and earmuffs not only reduce noise, they help prevent permanent hearing damage.

Protective clothing. Coolants, fuels and other chemicals used to run machinery can be toxic. Protective clothing can reduce contact with hazardous substances.

Hand and foot protection. The right hand protection and footwear guard against machinery-related hazards such as chemicals, falling objects, pinching and crushing.

Eye protection. Most eye injuries occur because a person doesn't wear eye protection or wears it improperly. Get the proper fit for safety glasses or goggles.



PPE hazard reminder: In some cases, PPE can create hazards, particularly gloves and protective clothing. Make sure your PPE selections are appropriate for the task, and stay alert and aware at all times when working around machinery.

Power sources such as electrical or hydraulic systems can cause electric shock and other injuries. Follow proper LOCKOUT and TAGOUT procedures when servicing or cleaning machinery, and never remove guards or safety devices that keep you from coming in contact with a power source.

Never wear loose clothing, jewelry, ties or scarves around machinery. They could get caught and cause serious injury.



Machine Safeguards

1. Double-check guards and safety devices
2. Follow operating procedures; never skip steps
3. Report missing or disabled guards and safety devices

Keep Your Guard Up

Moving machine parts can cause severe injuries such as crushed fingers or hands, amputations, burns, blindness ... even death. Machine safeguards are essential for protecting workers from serious and life-threatening injuries.

Safeguards should ...

- Remain secure
- Not hinder the worker
- Protect from falling objects
- Prevent contact with dangerous moving parts
- Allow for safe lubrication

Familiarize yourself with a machine's hazards and its safeguard descriptions, functions and use; how and when a safeguard may be removed, and by whom (in most cases by repair or maintenance personnel); and what to do if a safeguard is missing or damaged.

A well-running machine is a safer machine to work around. Ensure that vents, fans, valves, hoses and other parts of the machinery you work with are functioning properly and are in good repair.

Mechanical Danger Zones

... where machine safeguards and safety devices can save life and limb:

Point of operation: where the machine's function is performed, such as cutting, shaping or boring

Power transmission parts: the parts of the machine that transfer energy to the point of operation, including flywheels, pulleys, spindles, chains, belts, cranks and gears

Other moving parts: any part of the machine that moves while the machine is working, including the feed mechanisms, attachments and auxiliary parts

