

SAFETY ALERT

367 - Hand Caught in moving machinery

Background

A worker recently sustained serious injuries after their hand became caught in moving machinery during cleaning activities.

The incident resulted in crush and trapping injuries to the worker's hand and fingers requiring medical treatment.

This incident is a reminder of the ongoing risk of serious hand and finger injuries associated with moving plant and equipment.

Similar injuries continue to happen when workers are exposed to moving machine parts without proper guarding or when machines are not fully shut down and isolated before work starts.



Key Risks

- Hands or fingers caught in moving parts
- Clearing jams or performing adjustments while machinery is operating
- Missing, damaged or bypassed guards
- Failure to isolate equipment correctly

RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

Machinery must have effective guarding in place to:

- Prevent access to moving parts
- Remain fitted and secure during operation
- Never be removed or bypassed

Do not operate equipment with damaged or missing guards.

Isolation / Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO)

Before cleaning, maintenance, adjustments or clearing blockages:

- Shut down equipment
- Isolate all energy sources
- Apply lock out/tag out controls
- Make sure all power and movement has stopped before starting work

Never place hands into machinery unless isolation has been completed and verified.

Required Actions:

- Follow safe operating procedures at all times
- Inspect guarding before use
- Report damaged guards immediately
- Never take shortcuts around safety systems
- Stop work if machinery is unsafe

Date issued: 22/5/2026

Report all incidents and near misses

Please display on Safety Noticeboards and raise this matter at the next Toolbox Talk or Safety Meeting.