



# Machine Guard Overview

Any part of a machine that moves presents a hazard. Guarding eliminates or controls this danger.

## Dangers associated with poor guarding:

- Rotating parts or tooling causing lacerations, punctures, caught in exposures and scalping.
- Reciprocating and cutting motions creating lacerations and amputation.
- In-running nip points causing pinch points.
- Punching, shearing and bending creating pinch points, amputations and crush/mash injury.

(Give an example of each type of motion and the injury it might cause as it applies to the machinery used in your department. For example: even a smooth shaft rotating slowly can grasp clothing or hair.)

## Safe practices regarding machine guards:

- Never operate equipment that has a guard or barrier removed or damaged.
- Before safeguards or other guarding devices are removed for repair, adjustment or service, the power for the equipment must be turned off and the main switch locked out and tagged.
- No machine may be started unless the guards are in place and in good condition.
- Defective or missing guards must be reported immediately to the supervisor and the equipment taken out of service.
- Employees should not work on or around mechanical operating equipment while wearing neckties, loose clothing, watches, rings or other jewelry.

