Hazard Alert

Traumatic Amputation of Finger(s)

Over the course of 1 month, there were 3 incidents where a worker had their finger(s) too close to rotating parts, pinch points, or a cutting edge, and it resulted in traumatic amputation of one or more finger(s).

Safe Work Practices

Never place fingers in a direct line of moving parts. Use guards where there is the possibility that a worker's extremities may come into contact with a cutting edge, rotating equipment/parts, or a pinch point. (A pinch point is where 2 objects come together, and there is the possibility that the person could be caught or injured when coming into contact with that area.) Where a guard is not part of standard equipment, other tools may be necessary, or a risk assessment is required to perform the task safely.

Clear communication and an acknowledgement of mutual understanding between the person operating the equipment and any person(s) assisting is essential

Always pay attention to what you are doing and keep distractions to a minimum.

Before work begins, ask the question: *"If I do this task, what could possibly go wrong?"* Answering this simple question can prevent injury.

What the Legislation Says:

NWT and Nunavut *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations:*

Section 142.

(1) An employer shall, in respect of machines at a work site, ensure that
- (a) the machines are operated only by a competent worker; and
- (b) workers are informed of any hazard associated with, and trained in the safe use of, the machines.

The WSCC is committed to safety. For more information on workplace health and safety, call us toll-free or visit our website.

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Section 145.

(1) An employer shall provide an effective safeguard if a worker could come into contact with

(a) a dangerous moving part of a machine;

(b) a pinch point, cutting edge or point of a machine at which material is cut, shaped, bored or formed

(c) an open flame;

(d) a steam pipe or other surface with a temperature that exceeds or could exceed 80ºC; or

(e) a cooled surface that is or could be less than -80ºC.

Section 145.

(2) Before starting a machine, an operator shall ensure that the operator and any other worker will not be endangered by starting the machine.

NWT and Nunavut *Mine Health and Safety Regulations:*

Section 6.03.

The training programs required by section 6.02 shall include

(c) the hazards associated with the work and basic instructions in safe work practices.

Section 10.17.

No person shall operate any equipment unless all guards are in place.

Section 15.09.

(3) All reasonably accessible moving parts of a drill and its auxiliary equipment shall be guarded.