

TOOLBOX TALKS

MACHINE GUARDING

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit hollandcs.com/toolboxtalks.

Machine guarding is a very important safety feature.

GUARDING CAN PROTECT AGAINST:

Debris, particulates and other projectiles from flying out of the machine

Pinch-points caused by moving components

People from entering risky work areas

Machines or components within machines from inadvertent movement of controls

Sparks, electrical arcs and internal fires from expanding beyond a controlled area

Whipping from broken belts and other materials under high tension or stress

Using ventilation systems and hoods to reduce or prevent inhalation of hazardous fumes

Using retaining walls, enclosures and spill containment devices to prevent chemicals, objects and other materials from reaching undesirable areas

GUIDELINES FOR ENSURING MACHINE GUARDING IS EFFECTIVE:

- Ensure the guarding is properly fastened or anchored and not loose.
- Verify the guarding is strong enough to withstand the expected forces.
- If the guarding is perforated (for example a fence) then the holes in the guarding should be smaller than the smallest object that could fly from the machine.
- Always inspect and verify the guarding is adequate before operating the machine.

QUESTIONS TO GENERATE DISCUSSION:

- What guarding on your machine receives the greatest amount of use? Is it inspected frequently enough to remain effective and efficient at all times?

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