Caught In-Caught Between

This safety talk is designed for discussion leaders to use in preparing safety meetings. Set a specific time and date for your safety meeting. Publicize your meeting so everyone involved will be sure to attend.

Review this safety talk before the meeting and become familiar with its content. Make notes about the points made in this talk that pertain to your workplace. You should be able to present the material in your own words and lead the discussion without reading it. Collect whatever materials and props you will need ahead of time. Try to use equipment in your workplace to demonstrate your points.

BEGINNING THE MEETING

Give the safety talk in your own words. Use the printed talk merely as a guide. The purpose of a safety meeting is to initiate discussion of safety problems and provide solutions to those problems. Encourage employees to discuss hazards or potential hazards they encounter on the job. Ask them to suggest ways to improve safety in their area.

Don't let the meeting turn into a gripe session about unrelated topics. As discussion leader, it's your job to make sure the topic is safety. Discussing other topics wastes time and can ruin the effectiveness of your safety meeting. At the end of the meeting, ask employees to sign a sheet on the back of this talk as a record that they attended the safety meeting. Keep this talk on file for your records.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Read and share with the group the summaries listed below of known causes of caught-in or caught-between incidents and discuss the suggested reasons why these happened:

1. While turning a trim-press die up on its end, the worker's hand slipped, allowing the die to fall. The worker's hand was caught between the die and the table.
2. A worker was rotating a part on a set of rollers, when his hand was caught between the part and the roller.
3. A machine operator put her hand into a part spinning in a lathe to see if the tool was cutting properly. Her hand was caught between the part and the cutter.

4. A trim press operator was trying to free a part from a die, when the press recycled and caught a finger between the dies.
5. A worker reached into a machine while it was running to pull out a piece of metal, when his arm was caught between the part being machined and the cutter.

These incidents and others have occurred for reasons, such as those listed below:

1. Inadequate procedures explained to perform an operation.
2. Working on moving equipment.
3. Under mental or physical stress.
4. Using unsafe equipment.
5. Employee training deficiency.
6. Inadequate or no guarding.
7. Failure to use guarding and interlocks.

Case Study:

Choose your own case study of a caught-in or caught-between incident that has occurred in your plant, or read the one below and then discuss possible causes and corrective actions that may be taken to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

A screw-press operator was setting up the press in preparation for a production run. The setup procedure required a shim to be placed alongside the die to meet tool alignment specifications. Jogging the ram down rod all alignment point and inserting the shim with a pair of tongs usually accomplish this.

This is a slow process and the operator chose not to follow the procedure. Instead, the operator inserted the shim with one hand, held it in place, and used the 'inch' button with the other hand to screw the ram. This caused the ram to be inched down too far and the operator's hand was caught between the upper and lower die blocks. The operator suffered fractures to the left hand and wrist.

Use the questions and possible answers provided below to initiate discussion among group members about the case study:

What are the immediate and contributing causes of the accident?

Possible answers:

- Unsafe operating procedure.
- Inadequate program of inspection and maintenance of equipment.

- Employee was not trained to perform the operation safely.
- Employee was not supervised properly.
- Employee was under physical or mental stress.
- What can be done to prevent a similar accident in the future?

Possible solutions:

- Develop a standard operating procedure that would allow the shim to be inserted quickly and safely with hands away from the point of alignment.
- Review the preventive maintenance program and determine if maintenance is performed regularly. Take the necessary steps to ensure that equipment is thoroughly checked as part of the preventive maintenance program.
- Conduct press training and retraining.
- Require supervisors to ask employees to report any potential safety hazards as soon a possible.
- Employees must be willing to follow safe operating procedures.

Several incidents occur each year in which people suffer injuries as the result of having an arm, hand or foot caught in or caught between objects.

GENERAL SAFETY REVIEW

This is a time to review all safety concerns, not just today's topic. Keep your notes on this page before, during and after the safety meeting.

Are you aware of any safety hazards from any other crews? Point out any hazards other crews are creating that this crew should know about. Tell the crew what you intend to do about those hazards.

Do we have any other safety business? Discuss any past issues or problems. Report any progress of investigations and action taken.

Have there been any accidents, near misses or complaints? Discuss any accidents, near misses, and complaints that have happened since the last safety meeting. Also recognize the safety contributions made by members of the crew.

Please remember, we want to hear from you about any health and safety issues that come up. If we don't know about problems, we can't take action to fix them.

ENDING THE MEETING

Circulate Sign-Off Form.

Assign one or more crew member(s) to help with next safety meeting.

Refer action items for follow-up.

Do you have any Safety Recommendations?

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Do you have any Job Specific Topics you would like us to discuss?

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Comments

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