

Topics: Pinch Point Safety and Walking Surfaces

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Pinch Point Safety Tips

When you think of a pinch, would you think of it as something that could cause a disabling injury to your hands, toes, or body?

At work, pinch points occur when machines, hand tools, and conditions put your hands, feet and sometimes your entire body in danger.



The definition of a pinch point is, “a point in between moving and stationary parts of a machine where an individual’s body part may become caught, leading to an injury”.

Most pinch point injuries occur to the hands and account for one third of all work place injuries.



Examples of Pinch Points

- Between moving machine parts
- Sheet paper cutter
- Hand tools (ex. pliers)
- Door jams
- Mud or sludge hoppers
- Filter press plate/frames
- Salt conveyor belt
- File cabinet drawers
- Lowering a piston into a chlorine compressor cylinder.

Prevention

How can we protect ourselves and our fellow co-workers from pinch points?

- Maintaining awareness
- Training on equipment
- Positioning your body correctly
- Reviewing the job or task
- Ensuring barriers and guards are in place
- Placing warning signs by equipment that has been identified as a pinch point risk
- Using blocks or stoppers

- Respecting protective guards
- Wearing proper PPE
- Ensuring equipment is turned off and isolated
- Staying focused with full attention on the job or task
- Reporting any unsafe acts or conditions



Walking Surfaces

It is that time of year when old man winter comes out of hiding.

Walking to and from the parking lots or between buildings at work during the winter months requires special attention to avoid slips and falls.

No matter how well the snow and ice is removed, there is always the potential for black ice.

Black ice is defined as a thin coating of glazed ice on a surface, especially on asphalt. The ice is not black but is virtually transparent making it difficult to see.

In 2015 ASHTA had a total of eight slips and trips due to surface conditions, thankfully none resulting in an injury.



Awareness and Safety Tips

- In cold temperatures, approach areas of concern with caution.
- Walk in designated walkways as much as possible, do not take short cuts over snow piles or frozen areas.
- Bend slightly and walk flat-footed with your center of gravity directly over your feet.
- Take short steps, especially when changing direction.
- When walking on steps use the hand rails and plant your feet firmly.
- Exercise caution when entering and exiting vehicles.
- Keep your arms out to your sides to maintain balance.
- Using your hands to break a fall could result in an injury to the hands.

Safety 24/7

Working Towards a Million Man Hours Without a Lost Time Accident (LTA)

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Congratulations

ASHTA, at the end of December we achieved 882,628 hours without a LTA

Our goal is to reach 1 million man hours without a lost time accident (LTA).

How do we achieve this goal and milestone as a team?

Report !!

- Any unsafe acts or conditions.
- Injuries or Incidents.
- Spills or leaks.

Never do anything ...

- That is unsafe or that you have not been trained or authorized to perform.
- That violates company procedures or policy.
- That violates safe work practices.
- That puts you or others at risk.

Inspect !!

- Your work area for tripping hazards and unsafe conditions.
- Equipment (tools, PPE,

powered equipment, etc.).

Be Alert !!

- Think about any unintended consequences of your actions.
- Know the hazards before starting a job or task.
- Don't take short cuts.

Be Accountable !!

- Don't create unsafe conditions by leaving tripping hazards such as tools and cords. Maintain good housekeeping.
- Follow all safety and operation procedures.
- Complete and review any work permits: hot work, line entry and confined space.

Be Safe !!

- Being safe is an active choice you make everyday.
- Communicate with others.



Card Program

Reminder — three per month for operations and one a month for corporate.

Key STOP terms ...

ABBI

A — Above
B — Below
B — Behind
I — Inside

- **Self Observations**, ensuring that you have the proper PPE.
- **Total Observations**, inspecting your work area for unsafe conditions.
- **Evaporative Acts**, unsafe acts or working conditions that temporarily disappear only because someone's watching.

Remember the importance and meaning of the **STOP** Program.

- Safety Observations
- Accident Prevention
- Employee Participation
- Communication
- Awareness

Note, ASHTA submitted 2800 **STOP** Cards in 2015 Great Job!!!

Importance of a Near-Miss

What is a near-miss?

A near-miss is an event where a hazard (potential for injury, property damage

or both) existed, but the hazard was identified before injury or loss occurred. A near-miss can also be environmental in nature.

Near-misses are considered *leading indicators*, that a more severe incident might have occurred ...

.. by capturing and documenting near-misses we can identify an issue *before* something more severe happens.

Safe Winter Driving Tips

- Always have plenty of gas.
- Drive with your headlights on.
- Clear all windows and lights.
- Use your brakes carefully. Hard braking may cause you to spin out of control.
- Keep at least two car lengths distance.
- Adjust your speed to match road conditions.
- Keep a safety kit in your car, you should also include jumper cables, flashlights, water, extra blankets and a shovel.