



## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members

### **Amputations in the Workplace Safety Message**

Amputations are a very serious health and safety concern in the workplace. OSHA reports there is an average of seven amputations that occur in US workplaces every single day. This reported number has resulted from OSHA requiring employers to report serious injuries starting in 2015. This average does not include 28 states and territories that have their own health and safety programs. The number could be even higher due to employers not knowing about the new reporting rule or those who purposely avoid reporting these types of injuries to OSHA.

More than 90 percent of the amputations involved fingers, but there were also amputations of the hands, toes, feet, and other body parts. There are many hazards in the workplace that can result in amputations.

### **Common Locations Where Amputations Occur (source OSHA.gov)**

**Point of operation-** This is where a machine is performing work on a material. Some examples of points of operation include a razor cutting fabric, a mechanical press bending metal, or a drill bit cutting holes in metal sheeting.

**Power transmission apparatuses-** Includes machine components that transmit energy. Some examples include pulleys, belts, chains, flywheels, cams, gears, and connecting rods.

**Other machinery parts-** Any machinery part that moves with enough force to cut flesh and bone is a hazard that can result in an amputation. This would include any parts that reciprocate, rotate, or traverse moving parts.

### **Summary**

Be aware of the different hazards that can cause amputation injuries in the workplace. Focus on eliminating as many of these hazards as possible then look to use effective engineering controls to protect yourself and coworkers from amputation injuries. Not every single hazard may be eliminated in your workplace so always be aware of your surroundings and never put yourself in a situation where an injury is more likely to occur.

### **Discussion points:**

What are tasks we complete here that an amputation injury is a risk?

How can we eliminate or mitigate these risks?