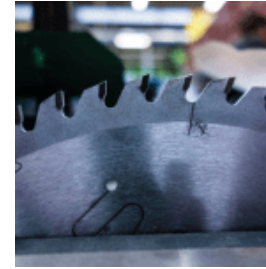




Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



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.

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.

Safeguards Against Amputations

Elimination- Eliminate any hazards that can cause an amputation injury to avoid the possibility of the injury occurring to any individual.

Engineering controls- Where there are moving parts, ensure there is proper guarding around the hazard. Use barriers or fences to keep individuals out of areas where there are many moving parts or machinery.

Administrative controls- Employees should be trained on recognizing the hazards in their workplace that cause amputations. A lock out/tag out program is another example of an administrative control to prevent injury when servicing equipment that has moving parts.

Personal precautions- Do not stick your hands where you cannot see them. Do not bypass guards or work on live equipment. Also, avoid wearing loose clothing or jewelry that could pull your fingers or other body parts into moving equipment.