

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 cat.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?

Discussion Date:

Employee Participants:

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There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.