



# MACHINE GUARDING

## TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – TOOL AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY

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Whether we work directly with machinery or are in proximity to it, understanding and adhering to machine guarding principles are essential to protect ourselves and our colleagues.

### Key Points:

#### 1. The Importance of Machine Guarding:

- Machines are a necessary part of our work, but they come with inherent risks. Machine guarding is our first line of defense against these risks. It serves to protect us from moving parts, sparks, and other potential hazards.

#### 2. Types of Machine Guards:

- There are different types of machine guards, such as fixed guards, interlocking guards, and adjustable guards. Each serves a specific purpose, and it's important that we understand how to use and maintain them properly.



#### 3. Common Machine Hazards:

- Let's take a moment to identify common machine hazards, such as rotating parts, pinch points, and flying debris. These hazards can cause severe injuries if not properly guarded against.

#### 4. Responsibility for Machine Safety:

- Machine safety is a shared responsibility. If you're operating a machine, ensure that the guards are in place and functioning correctly. If you notice any issues, report them immediately to our maintenance team.



#### 5. Daily Inspections:

- Before starting any machine, conduct a quick inspection to ensure that guards are in place and in good condition. Don't assume that everything is in order – take the time to check.



#### 6. Lockout/Tagout Procedures:

- When performing maintenance or repairs, always follow lockout/tagout procedures. This ensures that machines are de-energized, preventing accidental starts and safeguarding against unexpected movements.

#### 7. Reporting Concerns:

- If you see a damaged or missing guard, or if you notice any other safety concerns related to machinery, report it immediately. Your vigilance can prevent accidents and protect all of us.

As we work with machines, let's prioritize safety by respecting and using machine guards correctly. They are there to protect us, and it's our responsibility to ensure they are in place and functioning. Safety is a team effort, and by looking out for one another, we can create a workplace where everyone goes home safely.