

safety matters

Retail

From your safety partners at Peabody Insurance Agency

Pinch Point Injury Prevention

Whether your hand gets caught between two heavy pallets or your body gets trapped between a vehicle and a static object, pinch point injuries are usually preventable using care, caution and alertness on the job. Pinch point hazards can be big or small and are present in every workplace.

While not every pinch point accident results in debilitating injury, it is important to realize how serious these accidents can be. In many cases, these types of incidents can be prevented using engineering controls or personal protective equipment (PPE), but you should also consider the following precautions to take control of your safety and steer clear of pinch point accidents:

- Before beginning your shift or when working with new equipment, identify potential pinch point hazards.
- Identify objects in the facility or on your equipment that move and come in contact—or close contact—with fixed objects.
- Be extremely cautious when placing your hands, fingers or feet between two objects. If you are within a pinch point, consider alternative ways to get the task done.
- Do not operate any equipment without the proper guarding mechanisms in place.
- Never use your feet to brace, force or chock objects.
- Wear appropriate gloves for the task at hand. They will serve as protection against injuries, but ill-fitting gloves may be an additional hazard.
- Always secure heavy materials while moving them around the facility and while loading so they cannot fall or roll.
- Be especially cautious when handling drums or other heavy metal objects that can cause more serious pinch point injuries.
- Watch out for rolling hazards by blocking wheels on equipment and trucks to prevent unwanted movement.
- Do not wear jewelry or loose clothing when lifting and moving heavy objects, and always tie long hair back. These items can get caught in moving parts or between heavy objects.
- Know how to turn off equipment immediately in case of an emergency.
- Inform your supervisor or manager if you spot any pinch point hazards that are not effectively guarded or not clearly marked.

While not every pinch point accident results in a deadly injury, it is important to realize how serious these accidents can be. Use these safety tips to avoid pinch point hazards.

