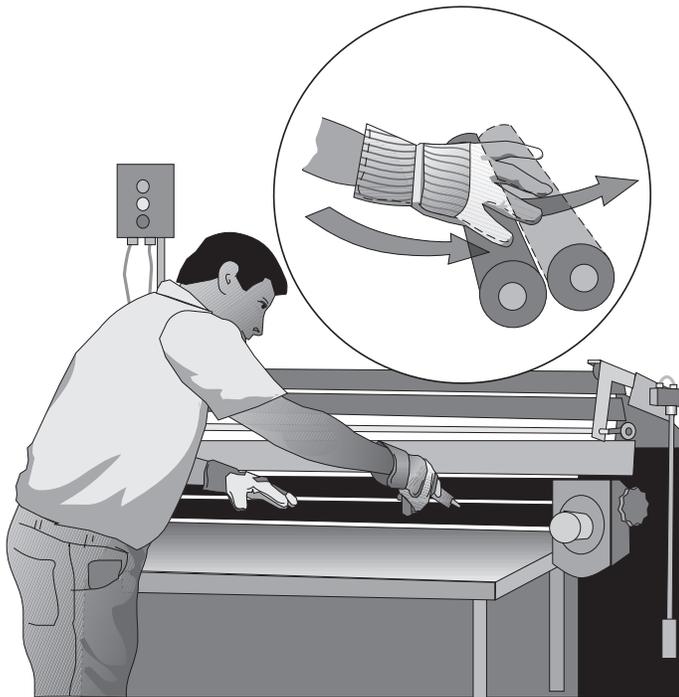


SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97310

Serious Disabling Injury Report

Accident typeCrushing
Industry Plywood manufacturing
Employee job title Laborer



Description of accident

A worker was applying grease to spreader rollers with his gloved hands. He had turned on the machine to grease the moving parts. The spreader rollers, which are about a quarter-inch apart, caught his righthand glove and pulled his hand into the rollers up to his wrist. The worker was able to stop the rollers by striking the emergency bar above the rollers, but his right hand remained caught between the rollers. He yelled for nearby workers, who called rescue personnel.

The victim's hand was not extricated from the rollers for 40 minutes. The maintenance supervisor assisted fire department responders by cutting loose the rollers that held the victim. He was taken to a hospital for treatment, which included surgery.

Investigation findings

The victim, whose primary language is Spanish, had not been adequately trained for the job of cleaning and greasing the spreader rollers, as he was unfamiliar with the company's lockout/tagout procedures. When the company's safety director had made lockout/tagout training presentations at safety meetings, he had done so in English, relying on the unofficial translation services of other Latino crew members, with the assumption that at least one was bilingual.

The safety director relied on the maintenance staff to monitor employees on the job. About a month before the accident, when a maintenance worker saw the victim cleaning and greasing a spreader without locking it out, he showed the victim the lockout box. However, he did not provide instruction on lockout procedures, and no follow-up was done. In addition, electrical switches installed in wet locations were not enclosed in waterproof enclosures.

Applicable standards

The following serious violations occurred:

- OAR 437-001-0760(1)(a) — The employer must provide adequate instruction and supervision to employees.
- CFR 1910.147(c)(4)(I) — The employer must develop, document, and utilize procedures for the control of potentially hazardous.
- CFR 1910.305(e)(2) — Switches, circuit breakers, and switchboards installed in wet locations shall be enclosed in weatherproof enclosures.

To avoid similar accidents

Provide employee orientation and all training in the primary language of the employee.

Ensure that proper lockout/tagout procedures are followed.