MACHINE GUARDING

This Toolbox Talk is based on OSHA’s machine guarding standards. Guarding involves protecting ourselves from machines and equipment in our work environment.

Basic Terminology:

**Parts of the Machine Requiring Guarding**
- **Point of Operation**: Area where machine performs work on material
- **Power Transmission Apparatus**: Belts, gears, flywheels, chains, pulleys, spindles, couplings, cams, machine components that transmit energy.
- **Other Moving Parts**: Reciprocating, rotating, traversing motions, auxiliary machine parts.

**Types of Mechanical Motion that Must be Guarded:**
- **Pinch Points**: Points at which it is possible to be caught between moving parts, or between moving and stationary parts of a piece of equipment
- **Rotating**: Circular motion of shafts with a protrusion sticking out can grip clothing or pull body part into point of operation
- **Reciprocating**: Back-and-forth or Up-and-Down motion that may trap or strike an employee between the moving object and a fixed object.
- **Traversing**: Movement in straight, continuous line that may strike or catch an employee in a pinch or shear point between a moving and fixed object.
- **Cutting**: Action of sawing, boring, drilling, milling, slicing
- **Punching**: Action resulting when a machine moves a slide (ram) to stamp a sheet of metal or other material.
- **Shearing**: Movement of a powered slide or knife during metal trimming or paper cutting
- **Bending**: Action occurring when power is applied to a slide to draw or form metal or other materials

**Common Machines That Require Machine Guards:**

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**Group Discussion Topics:**
- Identify the machines in your shop or that you use that require machine guarding.
- How could someone be injured by using these machines? How can this be prevented?
- Inspect your machines to ensure the guards are correctly positioned, intact and in place. Contact EHS if you need further assistance.