

PLAYING IT SAFE

Be safe and healthy on the job at with these helpful tips provided by Cool Insuring Agency, Inc..

10/12

Machine Guards are for Your Protection

Removing them can expose you to serious hazards

Working with machinery and other heavy equipment on the construction site is one of the top causes of on-the-job injuries. Thousands of workers each year suffer from amputations, lacerations, crushing injuries and abrasions, and some of those injuries result in death.

Despite the potential for injury and death, many workers still do not take machine hazards and machine guarding seriously. Often, machine guards are tampered with or removed if workers believe that the guard slows them down or is inconvenient. However, tampering with guards exposes those workers unnecessarily to hazards that can severely injure or kill them.

What You Can Do

- Be able to identify various machine guards and how they protect you and your co-workers.
- Understand your role. For example, if you are using a tool or piece of equipment, it is your responsibility to know how guards work and ensure they are in good working condition. If you repair or maintain machinery, it is your responsibility to ensure the guard is securely back in place when your work is complete.
- Know who is permitted to remove a safeguard and under what circumstances it is okay to remove

it.

- Contact your supervisor if a safeguard is damaged, missing, provides inadequate protection or is itself a hazard.
- Be aware of the disciplinary actions that you may face as a result of tampering with or removing a safeguard, including not inspecting the machine before using it or not following machine safety procedures.
- Have a safety-first attitude toward machinery and respect the work it does—as well as the injuries it can cause.

Make Safety a Priority

Machine guards are made for your protection, but your cooperation is needed to ensure that they work properly.

Always complete maintenance or repairs as scheduled, ensure guards are in place before using any machine or equipment, and let your supervisor know if you see an unsafe working condition.

Maintaining a safe worksite is a team effort, so do your part to ensure the safety of you and your co-workers.



Did You Know?

Bypassing machine guards or other safety precautions on the job site can be a fatal decision. Guards are specifically designed to keep the machine operator safe from many possible hazards—you may not even realize all the risks involved with using a particular piece of equipment.

This flyer is for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical or legal advice.

© 2010 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved.