



Toolbox Talk

November 2023



Hand Crushing and Pinch Point Injuries

Hand crushing and pinch point injuries are common hazards in many workplaces. Awareness of these risks and how to deal with them is essential, as they can significantly impact your personal and professional life.

What are Pinch Points?

Pinch points are areas where two objects come together, creating narrow openings or gaps that pose a significant risk to anyone working in a nearby area, particularly hands and fingers. These areas can cause severe injuries where body parts, tools, or materials can get caught or crushed. It is crucial to understand the nature of pinch points for your safety.



Types of Pinch Points

There are two types of pinch points to be aware of:

1

SHEAR PINCH POINTS

These occur when two objects move in opposite directions, trapping body parts between them. Examples include moving parts of machinery or the action of a conveyor belt.

2

NIP POINTS

These occur when two rotating parts come into contact. Examples include gears of machinery, rollers, or pulleys.

Be aware of these examples so you can take steps to avoid them and prevent potential crush injuries.

Pinch Point Injuries

Pinch point injuries can greatly impact your health and ability to work. These injuries are most likely to affect the hands and fingers due to their closeness to pinch points.

Some common types of injuries are:



BRUISING

Minor injuries can often result in bruises caused by pressure or minor crushing of the skin and tissues beneath. Although these may seem harmless, they can cause pain and temporarily limit mobility.



CUTS AND SCRAPES

More severe injuries can lead to cuts and scrapes, which may require medical attention and potentially stitches.



FRACTURES AND AMPUTATIONS

The most severe cases can result in fractures (broken bones) or even amputations if the force applied by the pinch point is strong enough. These injuries are life-altering and may have permanent consequences.

Examples of Pinch Point Hazards

There are many different pinch point hazards, but these include:

1. Conveyor Belt Rollers
2. Machinery Gears
3. Forklifts and Pallet Jacks
4. Shutting doors
5. Power Presses
6. Hand Tools
7. Heavy Equipment Attachments



How to avoid Pinch Point injuries

1. Safety Training and Education in the use of machinery and equipment
2. Proper PPE
3. Machine Safeguarding
4. Safe Work Practices
5. Team Communication to ensure machines are operated in sync.
6. Awareness of Pinch Points
7. Regular maintenance and inspection of machinery



First aid



Knowing how to provide first aid and respond to emergencies is vital when dealing with crush injuries. When an accident occurs, proper first aid can help reduce the severity of injuries and even save lives.

Knowing how to give initial care and understanding when to call for professional medical help is essential to your safety training.

Reporting incidents

Reporting incidents is vital in maintaining a safe workplace environment. When accidents, near misses, or hazards are reported in a timely manner, it enables the identification of areas that need improved safety measures.

Your role in reporting is crucial, as it ensures that potential risks are addressed, and everyone can work in a more secure and safer environment.



Summary

To prevent hand crushing and pinch point injuries, it's essential to receive safety training, use the appropriate PPE, and be aware of potential hazards. It's also important to have knowledge of first aid and report incidents promptly to maintain a safe working environment for everyone. Your proactive approach towards safety ensures a secure working environment. If you require any assistance with this, please chat with your ATNZ Account Manager.

For information about [returning to work from injury](#), your responsibilities and dealing with ACC please check the [ATNZ portal](#).



Remember **STAR** = Good Work Practices **Stop Think Assess Act Review**

Health and safety reps

Your Health and Safety (H&S) Reps are here to represent and assist you (apprentices) in all health and safety matters. If you would like to talk to an H&S Rep or have any H&S issues, feel free to contact any one of them. They will be more than happy to help.

ATNZ Staff

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
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Health and safety summary September/October

Remember to keep reporting accidents and incidents so we can all learn from them.

It's great to see near misses being reported and we encourage you to keep reporting these so we can prevent an actual injury happening.

- S** Stop
- T** Think
- A** Assess
- A** Act
- R** Review

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| Lost time injuries | 1 |
| First aid injuries | 8 |
| No injury | 0 |
| Medical treatment injuries | 2 |
| Near miss | 0 |
| Non work injuries | 3 |
| Restricted work injuries | 0 |
| Pain/discomfort | 0 |
| Total Incident | 14 |

Incidents

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Lost time injury | Bang to head (Late reported) |
| Nature of injury | Hitting objects with part of body |
| Incident | Apprentice was working under a trailer stood up hit head and jarred neck |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied and went to doctor for further assessment |
| Corrective actions | Follow STAAR process. Communication to all staff to be aware and take time completing tasks. |
| Medical treatment injury | Cut to hand |
| Nature of injury | Hit by moving object |
| Incident | Apprentice cut their hand while using dropsaw. The piece of metal they were cutting was clamped but moved and the sharp material slipped over hand causing a cut requiring 3 stitches |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied and went to doctor for further assessment |
| Corrective actions | Follow STAAR process. Communication to all staff to be aware and take time completing tasks and to ensure metal is fully secured before cutting |
| First aid injury | Cut to finger |
| Nature of injury | Powered hand tools/equipment |
| Incident | Apprentice was cleaning the lathe and didn't realise they had touched swarf causing a cut to their finger |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied and put gloves on to continue cleaning the lathe |
| Corrective actions | Communicated to the apprentice to ensure they wear the appropriate PPE when cleaning the lathe |
| First aid injury | Cut to head |
| Nature of injury | Being hit by moving object |
| Incident | Apprentice was lifting the airline connected to the air arc up onto a trailer, the brass air connection fitting came out of socket (had air pressure through the line) on the Air Arc machine hitting above their eye causing a laceration |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied and went to doctor for further assessment and gluing of the wound |
| Corrective actions | Communicated to the apprentice to take the time when completing tasks following the correct processes and consider remove the pressure from the line before moving. Apply STAAR to their work practice |
| First aid injury | Cut to finger |
| Nature of injury | Powered hand tools/equipment |
| Incident | Apprentice clipped thumb on polishing wheel and took a bit of skin off |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied |
| Corrective actions | Communicated to the apprentice to take the time when completing tasks following the correct processes. Apply STAAR to their work practice |

Incidents

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|--------------------------------|---|
| First aid injury | Hit head |
| Nature of injury | Hitting object with part of body |
| Incident | Apprentice was kneeling down working, they then stood up and hit the back of their head on some timber |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied and went to hospital for further assessment |
| Corrective actions | Communicated to the apprentice to take the time when completing tasks following the correct processes. Apply STAAR to their work practice |

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|--------------------------------|--|
| First aid injury | Metal in eye |
| Nature of injury | Foreign body |
| Incident | Apprentice got metal in eye that had blown from clothing |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied to flush metal |
| Corrective actions | Communicated to apprentice to brush off clothing and hair after working to get rid of any dust and any potential metal fragments |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Medical treatment injury | Metal in eye |
| Nature of injury | Foreign body |
| Incident | Apprentice got metal in eye |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied and went to doctor for further assessment and removal |
| Corrective actions | Communicated to apprentice to brush off clothing and hair after working to get rid of any dust and any potential metal fragments |

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|--------------------------------|---|
| First aid injury | Pain in back and neck |
| Nature of injury | Manual Handling |
| Incident | Apprentice lifted their tool bag and suddenly in pain 10 min later. No specific incident occurred |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied |
| Corrective actions | No corrective actions at this time |

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|--------------------------------|---|
| First aid injury | Bruising to thumb |
| Nature of injury | Being hit by moving object |
| Incident | Apprentice hit LH thumb with dead blow hammer |
| Immediate actions taken | First aid applied |
| Corrective actions | Apply STAAR to work practice |