

HAZARD ALERT



WORKER DIES WHEN CAUGHT IN LATHE

A sixty-three year old worker was fatally injured when his clothing became entangled on a shaft he was turning on a lathe. The shaft had been removed from a piece of sawmill equipment and brought to a repair garage. The lathe operator was working alone when the accident occurred.

Once the shaft was positioned on the lathe, the lathe was turned on. The investigation revealed that while the shaft was turning the operator reached over the shaft with his hand and the sleeve of his coveralls became entangled on a bolt protruding from the revolving shaft. The worker was instantly pulled into the lathe and he was trapped. He was found approximately one hour later with the lathe still running. The cause of death was determined to be asphyxiation.



Recommended Preventive Action

- A bolt was left protruding from the shaft. It should have been removed or replaced by a non-protruding set screw prior to turning the shaft.
- Lathe operators should wear tight fitting clothes, particularly in the areas of possible contact with rotating parts.
- The investigation revealed that the normal stop/start buttons were relocated from the machine location to a wall mount. As a result, the worker was unable to turn the machine off. A properly installed emergency stop device on the lathe could have allowed the victim to stop the lathe before succumbing to asphyxiation.

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WHSCC
All Accidents are Preventable

Issued: June 1999

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