

### Machine Guarding

Machines, such as saws, mills, drill presses, sanders, lathes, and grinders, are used every day at Northwestern for cutting, drilling, and shaping materials, such as wood and metal. While these machines are necessary and useful, place and working properly to ends, and other body parts.

**Fixed guards** are the preferred guard type as they are considered a permanent part of the machine. An example is the guard covering the majority of the grinding wheel on a bench grinder.

**Adjustable guards** allow machines to handle a variety of material sizes

AkO...  
Bell(a)P.E p

**Point of operation** is where work is performed on the material, such as cutting or drilling. Examples include a saw blade and the grinding wheel of a surface grinder.

**Power transmission devices** are the components that provide energy to the point of operation. Examples include flywheels, pulleys, belts, couplings, spindles, chains, and gears.

**Other moving parts** of the machine that move while the machine is operating. Examples include auxiliary parts such as, feeders, stackers, reels, and robots.

[Machine Guarding](#) and complete [Machine Guarding](#) training. **Report all injuries** on the Risk Management [website](#) or 847.491.5084.

#### Tips for Success When Talking to Your Team

**Preparation is Key:** Keep the topic relevant. Work with your team to review the various types of machine hazards in your workplace and discuss control methods to stay safe when operating machines.

**Stay Positive:** Keep the focus on what can be done to create a safe workplace, instead of focusing on what has gone wrong in the past.

**Share a Story, Ask for a Story:** Telling machine-related stories is a powerful method to convey information. Stories from your employees make the topic even more relatable.

Keep children away from machines with dangerous moving parts, such as circular saws and lawn mowers.

Administration (OSHA), workers who operate and maintain machinery suffer approximately 18,000 amputations, lacerations, abrasions, and crushing injuries, and there are over 800 deaths per year. In addition, missing guards on machines have been on OSHA's Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards list for the past five years.

#### For Additional Information

Contact Gwen Butler, Director, Environmental Health & Safety, at 847.491.4936