



SAFETY ALERT

Iowa Machine Guarding Incident

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

Date: November, 2018
Category: Machine Shop Safety
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Description

Iowa OSHA issued two citations and \$55,434 in penalties to Prinsco, Inc. after an employee was seriously injured by a moving saw blade. Employees were regularly exposed to running band saw blades when pushing scrap plastic onto a conveyor belt located behind the band saw. A worker was hospitalized after sustaining a laceration to the hand after coming into contact with a band saw blade while removing scrap material from the danger zone.

Findings

- No special hand tools for placing and removing material into the danger zone were provided to employees.
- A vertical band saw did not have the blade guard properly adjusted to guard the unused portion of the saw blade. The saw ran continuously with the blade guide set approximately 8 inches from the working table while cutting 5 inch diameter parts.
- One or more methods of machine guarding were not provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips, and sparks.

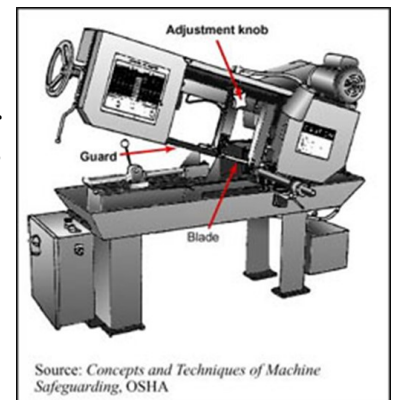
Example of a Vertical Band Saw



Takeaways & Actions

- There are several machine shops on campus with similar equipment that require guarding to provide adequate protection to employees and students.
- Be sure to check machines in your area to ensure that they are adequately guarded and protect both operators and employees working in the area.
- Review the [Machine Guarding & Shop Safety](#) page on the RMS website for information on the University's program, machine guarding requirements and other helpful resources.
- Review your department's operating procedures and ensure that all students and employees working with machinery know the expectations of ensuring guarding is properly adjusted when in use, such as adjusting to height of stock during cutting operations.
- For better understanding of band saw guarding requirements, please watch this video (click [here](#)).
- Please contact Risk Management and Safety if you have any questions or concerns regarding machine guarding in your shop areas.

Example of Horizontal Band Saw



Source: Concepts and Techniques of Machine Safeguarding, OSHA

All safety communications can be found at <https://riskmanagement.nd.edu/communication/safety-communication/>.

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