



# Shear and Cutting Point Hazards

West Virginia University  
Environmental Health and Safety



## General Shear or Cutting Point Information

- Types of shear or cutting point injuries include amputations, lacerations, contusions, crushing of tissues and bones, and broken bones.
- Shearing or cutting mechanical parts move too fast for you to escape injury once one of your body parts has been exposed to a shear or cutting point hazard.



## Shear or Cutting Point Safety Precautions

- Be aware of shear or cutting points that are present in your work environment, including those associated with equipment or machinery you may use or work with and/or near.
- Assure all covers and protective shields for equipment and machinery shear or cutting point hazards are in place.
- Wear snug clothing, remove jewelry, and tie long hair back or secure under a cap before working in the vicinity of shear or cutting point hazards.
- Place and maintain warning labels adjacent to shear or cutting point hazards.
- Never place your hands, fingers, or feet near or reach across shear or cutting parts.
- Do not operate equipment or machinery without required guards or shields.



- Shut off engine, de-energize equipment or machinery, and engage parking brake (or set wheel chock blocks) before performing maintenance or repairs or when unclogging material from shear or cutting points. Follow appropriate lockout/tag-out procedures if necessary.
- Replace guards or shields after completing equipment and machinery maintenance or repairs.