



# Pinch Point Hazards



West Virginia University  
Environmental Health and Safety

## General Pinch Point Information

- Types of pinch point injuries include amputations, lacerations, contusions, crushing of tissues and bones, and broken bones.
- Rotating mechanical parts move too fast for you to escape once you have become entangled in a pinch point.
- Gears, sprockets, sprocket chain drives, and moving parts of belt and pulley drives located seven feet or less above the floor are required to have safety guards or shields.



## Pinch Point Safety Precautions

- Be aware of pinch 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 pinch point hazards are in place.
- Loose clothing, jewelry, and hair can be pulled into pinch points. Wear snug clothing, remove jewelry, and tie long hair back or secure under a cap before working in the vicinity of pinch point hazards.
- Place and maintain warning labels adjacent to pinch point hazards.
- Never place your hands near or reach across rotating mechanical parts.
- Be alert whenever you place your fingers, hands, toes, or feet between any objects.
- Do not operate equipment or machinery without required guards or shields.



- Shut off and de-energize equipment or machinery before performing maintenance or repairs. If necessary, follow lock-out/tag-out procedures.
- Replace guards or shields after completing equipment and machinery maintenance or repairs.