



February 9 — Near Miss Pinch Hazard

<p>Pushing a table without looking to see if anyone is in the way. Person not looking nearly pinned another person between the tables.</p>	<p>Supervisor told him he needs to pay attention before pushing the table</p>
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A worker was pushing a table without looking to see if anyone was in the path. Because the worker did not check the area, another person was nearly pinned between the tables.

**A table pushed fast without a look,
Turned a simple move into a dangerous nook.
Look first, pause, and clear the way,
So no one gets pinned in work today.**

The task itself was simple, but the approach created the hazard. When people move material without looking, they assume the space is clear. In busy work areas, that assumption is dangerous. One blind push can turn routine material handling into a serious pinch or crush incident in seconds. This time it was a near miss — next time it might not be.

Hazards

- Pinch and crush injuries to hands, arms, or torso
- Loss of balance leading to falls
- Struck-by injuries from moving objects
- Secondary injuries from sudden movement
- Damage to equipment or work areas

Stats

- Pinch-point and caught-between incidents are a leading cause of industrial injuries
- Many crush injuries occur during routine material handling, not heavy equipment operations
- Line-of-fire hazards often involve everyday tasks, not just high-risk jobs
- Near-miss reports frequently involve workers moving objects without checking their path

Words of Wisdom

- If you push, you own the path.
- Don't move what you can't see.

Pause and Think

Material handling feels low risk because it happens constantly. Familiar tasks create tunnel vision, and people stop scanning their surroundings. Rushing, complacency, or simple habit can cause someone to forget that others are moving through the same space. Taking one second to look before pushing can prevent a lifetime injury.

- What objects do we move without thinking on site?
- Where are our blind spots during material handling?
- How often do we assume a path is clear instead of verifying it?