



May 4 – It Happens Fast

Employee trying to set a door stop to keep door open placed hand on the closer arm, as another employee quickly started opening the door.

Tried to stop this, luckily the employee's hand was pushed away and not pinched in the closer arm. Told the employee opening the door to slow down.

It was a simple task.

Hold the door open. Set the stop. Move on. Nothing complicated about it. But timing changed everything.

One employee had their hand on the closer arm while setting the stop. Another went to open the door. No warning. No pause. Just movement. And that's how it happens.

The door didn't look dangerous. The task didn't feel risky. But the moment two people acted at the same time, that space became a pinch point.

And once it starts moving, there's no time to react. This time, the hand slipped away. No injury.

But it doesn't take much. A second slower, a different angle, a little more force and it's a different outcome. This wasn't about doing something wrong. It was about being in a spot where control could be taken away instantly.

Hazards

- Pinch points between moving components
- Unexpected movement from others
- Hand and finger injuries
- Loss of control due to timing
- Line of fire exposure to mechanical motion

Stats

- Hand injuries are among the most common workplace injuries.
- Many pinch point incidents occur during routine tasks
- Most happen when multiple people are working in the same area
- Reaction time is often not fast enough once movement begins

Words of Wisdom

- If it can move, it can pinch
- Don't trust timing – control the space
- Hands don't belong where movement happens

Pause and Think

We get comfortable around simple tasks. Doors, tools, equipment we've used a hundred times. That's when we stop thinking about what could change.

Another person stepping in. A movement starting sooner than expected. A moment where control is gone. That's all it takes.

- Am I placing my hands where movement could happen?
- Do I assume others see what I'm doing?
- Am I controlling the space, or just working in it?
- Would I stop before putting myself in that position?