



July 7 — Keep Your Hands Out of the Line of Fire

Employee was removing the DT shaft coupler with chain fall and come along and he had his fingers in a spot where when the coupler moved and came down it smashed his glove and almost smashed his fingers inside the glove but it barely got him resulting in browsing of the finger tips.

Had a stand down of that crew and explained to them you don't put your hands between objects. You use bars, etc. so you don't put your hands in the line of fire situations.

Your hands naturally follow your work...

Make sure they don't follow it into the danger zone.

While removing a DT shaft coupler, an employee was using a chain fall and a come along to move the equipment into position. As tension was applied, the coupler suddenly shifted downward. The employee's glove was caught, bruising their fingertips and narrowly avoiding a much more serious injury.

When we're focused on moving equipment, lining up parts, or getting a stubborn component loose, it's easy to become so focused on the task that we lose track of where our hands are. That's why pinch-point injuries happen so quickly they often occur during the exact moment something finally moves.

Before applying force, take a moment to ask yourself one simple question:

"If this suddenly moves, where will my hands go?"

That one question can prevent a serious injury.

Hazards

- Pinch points
- Caught between hazards
- Unexpected equipment movement
- Stored mechanical energy
- Hand and finger injuries
- Line of Fire exposure

Words of Wisdom

Your hands are often your most valuable tools. Never place them where unexpected movement can trap, pinch, or crush them. If something shifts, your hands should already be in a safe place.

Pause and Think

- Before applying force to a part, do you stop and identify where it could move?
- What pinch points are commonly overlooked during maintenance work?
- How can using pry bars, positioning tools, or changing your body position help keep your hands out of the danger zone?
- Have you ever had a close call because something moved differently than you expected?
- What question can you ask yourself before every task to reduce line-of-fire injuries?

Closing Thought

Equipment doesn't have to move very far to cause a serious injury. Keep your hands out of the line of fire, expect the unexpected, and always give moving parts the space they need.