



DECEMBER 24 — Wrong Position Hazard

<p>Walked by another contractor working and noticed he was wearing a chain.</p>	<p>I stopped contractor and told them jewelry is not permitted in the plant due to risk of getting snagged in machinery while working.</p>
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While perched on a tight scaffold with legs wrapped around a dome, the worker tried to break loose a stubborn bolt. With almost no room for leverage or recoil, the wrench slipped and all the stored energy went straight into his own body leaving him singing in a higher tune.

**When space is tight and tools are near,
Your swing can shift from safe to fear.
Give yourself room before you attack
Or the blow might land in your own lap.**

In cramped or awkward positions, your body becomes the nearest strike zone when tools release unexpectedly. Momentum drift pushed him to finish the pull despite poor positioning, and in tight spaces that instinct can turn your own force against you.

Trying to work in a tight space is like swinging a hammer inside a mailbox. Eventually you're going to hit something you shouldn't, and it might be you.

Hazards

- Self-strike injuries
- Loss of balance
- Tool kickback
- Strains and sprains

Stats

- 25% of hand-tool injuries involve poor body positioning.
- Tight space posture increases injury risk by 200-300%

Words of Wisdom

- Your setup determines your safety.
- If your body is the backstop, you aren't set up right.

Pause and Think

Momentum drift happens when your hands commit to a motion before your brain fully evaluates whether the setup is safe. Once force is applied, the mind narrows in on "finish the pull," even when posture or leverage is poor.

In cramped spaces, this is especially dangerous because force has nowhere to escape to except towards your own body. Recognizing unsafe posture *before* applying force is the only way to avoid becoming your own strike hazard.

- When have you pushed through instead of repositioning?
- What does an unsafe body position look like for this crew?
- Which tasks require slowing down before applying force?