

VOLTS Newsletter

VALUING OUR LIVES THROUGH SAFETY

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Pinch Points

Section 1.2 of the VOLTS Data Sheet focuses on pinch points. All employees need to be able to recognize pinch-point hazards and how to prevent pinch-point injuries. What is a pinch point? A pinch point is a place where it is possible for a body part to be caught between moving machine parts, stationary machine parts, or moving parts and materials being processed. Pinch points commonly impact fingers and/or hands, but can impact any area of the body. The injury resulting from a pinch point could be as minor as a blister or as severe as an amputation or death.

Reasons contributing to pinch-point accidents:

- ☞ Not paying attention to the location of hands and feet.
- ☞ Walking or working in areas with mobile equipment and fixed structures.
- ☞ Loose clothing, hair, or jewelry getting caught in rotating parts or equipment.
- ☞ Poor condition of equipment and guarding.
- ☞ Dropping or carelessly handling materials or suspended loads.
- ☞ Not using the proper work procedures or tools.
- ☞ Reaching into moving equipment and machinery.

Behaviors for avoiding pinch points:

- ☞ Give even the smallest task your fullest attention.
- ☞ Never fool around or daydream at work.
- ☞ Use machine and tool guards.
- ☞ Never remove or disable a machine guard or use a machine that has a missing or disabled guard.
- ☞ Never reach around, under, or through a guard.
- ☞ Always report guards that are missing or not working properly.
- ☞ Turn off and lockout/tagout equipment before repairing or servicing.

This real-life experience is by Gary Oberg. By sharing this story, Gary hopes to help others to stop and think before they put their extremities in harm's way.

"It was July 21, 2010. Two other electricians and I were tasked with load testing the 90-ton turbine bay crane. The railcar with the lift frame on it was positioned in the machine shop crane bay. We were loading the frame with large, concrete blocks to get the needed amount of weight. The blocks were moved by the machine shop pendant-

controlled crane. On the block that I was spotting, the frame was not sitting down properly, so I decided to use my hands underneath the block to help spot it on the frame. I wasn't aware that there had been an angle iron framework welded out from the load frame where my right hand was positioned. When I gave the pendant operator the okay to lower the load, my hand and fingers were pinched. My order to stop lowering was obeyed immediately, and the only hesitation the pendant operator had in raising the load was to make double sure he would press the up button.

"The Delta ambulance was called to transport me to the hospital. Two shots of morphine and ten minutes later, I was on the way to the Payson hospital. At the Payson hospital, there was not a surgeon available for approximately six hours; because, he was already in surgery with another amputation patient.

"I was loaded into the Payson ambulance to go to St. Mark's hospital. At the St. Mark's hospital, they said their surgeon had just been called for an emergency surgery and they didn't know how long it would take. A doctor at the University of Utah Medical Center agreed to do the surgery which resulted in the amputation of my right index finger and a lot of stitches to close where the skin on the top of my hand had been crushed into an open wound. I was lucky.

"Judging from the scaring, I could have lost everything from the base of the thumb to the base of the little finger. The time off from work and the physical therapy involved were not worth the lack of judgment on my part to put my hands under a suspended load. Think before you act. Your brain is the most valuable tool you have at your disposal."

We want to thank Gary for sharing this traumatic experience with us that has drastically changed his life. All of us can benefit from Gary's words of wisdom.

Badging In/Out of the Scrubber

At the last VOLTS committee meeting, there was data that suggested to the Committee some concerns about badging in and out of the two Scrubber buildings. The intent of badging in relation to our AQCS is to establish an accountability list for employees' safety in the event of an emergency—

such as a major flue gas leak or buildup of flue gas inside the module/electrical areas.

The reason for badging in/out of the Scrubber is so the Operator on shift in the Scrubber has a log of who is in the Scrubber in case of an emergency. If employees have badged in the Scrubber, and there is an emergency, someone will come to find and rescue them. If they are in the Scrubber but not badged in and an emergency occurs, no one will come to warn or rescue them. On the other hand, if they are badged into the Scrubber but had left for some reason and did not badge out and an emergency occurs, there will be employees risking their lives to find them, because the record says they are in the Scrubber.

Contract Administrators are also responsible for seeing that contract workers follow the same procedures.

During outages when the unit is offline and no hazard of flue gas buildup is possible, it is not necessary to sign in or out of the building to perform work in these areas. If questions arise as to the sign in/out requirements under specific circumstances, contact the on-shift Assistant Superintendent of Operations.

As you can see, following the Scrubber building guidelines already in place will help to keep all of us safe in the event of an emergency. Please badge in and out correctly for everyone who is involved.

Thanks for all that you do to try and ensure that we have the safest working environment possible.

New Steering Committee Member

The VOLTS Steering Committee welcomed Casey Draper as a new member. His concern for making IPSC a safer place to work and his willingness to be involved will be beneficial as the VOLTS process continues to grow and evolve.



Casey Draper, Operations