



DOSH Hazard Awareness eBulletin

November 2011

Attention businesses, supervisors, and employees who use *Pro-Pak Model JN-ZK1 bagging machines* to package onions, potatoes, and other produce:

Bag-line employees were injured in 2 separate incidents because of pinch-points hazards created by exposed moving parts on onion bagging machinery.

Each employee had their fingers caught and injured by a retracting metal clamp which grabs the top of bags after filling and pulls them through a set of rollers toward a stitcher. (see photos).



Photo 1. Unguarded and dangerous: metal clamp arms extend and come together (pinch point #1) to grab the bag and pull it through rollers (pinch point #2) and on towards the stitcher.



Photo 2. The metal clamp (underside shown without an attached bag) has moved from the extended position shown in Photo 1 to a fully retracted position on the other side of the rollers.

Machine safeguarding and employee training on safe work practices are essential to prevent injuries to bagging machine operators. Possible safeguarding ideas include using a light curtain, barrier, pressure sensitive or restraint device to prevent employees from contacting the clamp. Check with equipment manufacturers for information about these safety features and make sure any modifications won't create other safety hazards.

Resources are available to help find and fix pinch-point hazards in your workplace:

- [Machine Guarding](#), an L & I safety topic page
- [Basics of Machine Safeguarding Hazards and Solutions](#), an online course designed for hazard awareness

Please share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety networks. A Spanish version is available at [Hazard Alerts & Fatality Bulletins](#).

How can I get help from Labor & Industries? The Department of Labor & Industries provides consultations, training, and technical assistance at no cost to employers. Call today to schedule a free confidential consultation or go to [Request Consultation](#) for more information

#11HB2011

This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations. The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace hazards and describes relevant mandatory safety and health rules. DOSH recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.