



Industrial Ice-Making Systems

September 13, 2011

Attention businesses and employees:

Three workers at different worksites in Washington State have been badly hurt by industrial ice-making machines. These machines often fill an entire room or facility and have dangerous moving parts that can seriously injure workers who operate or maintain them, but smaller machines can also cause serious harm. Here are brief descriptions of these incidents:

- A worker was **removing ice from the edge of a rake mechanism** (Photo 1) when the system unexpectedly started up and trapped his leg. He managed to escape, but suffered a broken leg.
- A worker was **using a piece of PVC pipe to break up an ice jam from a double screw conveyer** (Photo 2) when he was pulled into one of the augers. His left leg was amputated due to the injuries he sustained.
- A worker's clothing became entangled when he **reached inside a small ice machine to reconnect a water supply hose**. His arm and shoulder were pulled into the machine and severely injured.



Photo 1: Ice raking equipment can entangle and cause serious injury to employees when lockout/tagout procedures aren't established or followed.

Lockout/tagout and confined space procedures are designed to prevent these types of incidents. To learn more, see:

- [Ice machine fatality at a seafood processing plant](#) (from OSHA)
- [Lockout/Tagout](#) topic page
- [Confined Spaces](#) topic page
- [Machine Safety](#)



Photo 2: Danger Area: Don't enter spaces with exposed double-screw conveyers until you verify the equipment has been properly locked and tagged out.

Please share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety networks.

If you have questions or comments about this eBulletin, please contact nichole.rose@lni.wa.gov

This ebulletin 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 related rules for additional requirements.

#9HB2011