WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

FP&M Safety Talk - **MACHINE GUARDING**

Date:_____   Trainer:_____

Machine operators who understand a machine's hazards and how to control them will have a reduced risk of injury. A review of machine operating instructions may improve productivity as well as safety. There are five general techniques for safeguarding machine operation, but all guards must be able to prevent contact, must be secured in place (or are otherwise tamperproof), must create no new hazards, should allow for lubrication with the guard still in place, and must not interfere with the machine operation. A brief description of the types of safeguarding follows:

• Guards-These can be fixed, interlocked, adjustable, or self-adjusting. They are a physical barrier to contact.
• Devices-These can be presence sensing, pullback, restraint, operational controls, or gates. They limit or prevent access to the hazardous area.
• Location or distance-Hazards are reduced by locating the machine so that its hazardous areas are not normally accessible.
• Automated feeding and ejection methods-These eliminate some of the operator's exposure to the hazards.
• Miscellaneous aids-Shields, feeding-tools, holding devices, or awareness barriers also protect operators and people in the area.

The best machine operator knows what the machine does, how the operating controls affect the work, and when maintenance or repairs are needed. Operators who understand machine-specific operating instructions Contribute to having a more efficient operation. Instructions can also lead to less risk of injury because the instructions explain the machine's operations and how to prevent, or at least recognize, a malfunction. A lack of knowledge and not noticing hazards often leads to injuries. An inspection may find that a guard is missing or damaged. A guard can be damaged while the machine is running. Missing or damaged guards compromise the safety of the machine, and must be reported right away. Do not run the machine without adequate guards.

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