

## Safe maintenance of machinery

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An operator suffered lacerations requiring stitches when quarry workers decided to try to finish a task of replacing a conveyor tail drum, which the site maintenance team hadn't completed. They were not included on the original permit to work. While trying to position the tail drum, an operator's little finger was pinched. The operator was wearing gloves.

This incident highlights the need to ensure that all workers understand and comply with safe systems of work including formal procedures. Often the desire to "help" leads to shortcuts and procedures not being followed. Training and supervision are important to ensure that safe systems of work are followed.



WorkSafe's Best Practice Guideline on Safe use of Machinery, dated May 2014, contains some good tips on the safe use and maintenance of machinery.

We recommend that all sites review maintenance procedures and practices. You need to ensure that:

- **Safe systems of work, such as formal procedures, are in place to identify all hazards and ensure risks are minimised**
- **Areas where maintenance is being carried out are clearly delineated and tags identify that work is incomplete and that plant must not be operated**
- **No task is undertaken until hazards are identified, risks assessed, and appropriate controls are in place to minimise risks to workers**
- **All plant is maintained in accordance with original equipment manufacturers (OEM) requirements**
- **All workers have adequate instruction, information, training and supervision in risk management practices, including permit to work systems and other procedures**
- **Regular workplace inspections are conducted to ensure that risk controls are in place and are effective.**

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

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