

Safety Tip

27 February 2026

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

Health and safety tip – guarding

Far too many injuries occur from workers becoming entangled in plant.

All machinery must be adequately guarded at all times, and both the machinery and its guards must be maintained in a safe working condition.

Guards should be designed so that they do not need to be removed for routine maintenance.

For guidance on effective guarding, and to conduct your own audit, check out the [MinEx Guarding in mines and quarries booklet](#).



[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 7 years show 313 incidents resulted from entanglement in plant.

You need to ensure that:

1. When designing guards for plant, you should refer to the Australian / New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4024.1 (2019) Safety of Machinery Standards.
2. Guards prevent workers' hands, arms, or other body parts from making contact with moving parts.
3. Guards are firmly secured, not easily removable, and permit safe, comfortable, and relatively easy operation of machinery.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.