

Tools for Life – Weekly Health & Safety Meeting

The logo for Apollo Mechanical Contractors is a dark blue oval containing the word "Apollo" in a white, cursive script font. Below the name, the words "MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS" are written in a white, sans-serif font, flanked by two horizontal white lines. Underneath that, the tagline "Building People Who Build Great Things" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —
Building People Who Build Great Things

Home Healthy - Home Safe

Date: October 2023

Hoodie Strings: If They Dangle, They Can Tangle

Workplace safety is paramount, especially when it comes to working around rotating machinery. One often-overlooked hazard is the potential entanglement of hoodie strings, long hair, beards, or loose clothing. In this meeting, we will explore the risks involved and provide essential tips to ensure a safe working environment.

Understanding the Risk

Rotating machinery poses inherent dangers due to moving parts. When hoodie strings, long hair, beards, or loose clothing are not properly secured or tucked away, they can easily get caught in the equipment, leading to entanglement. Such incidents can result in severe injuries or even fatalities. Apollo has experienced severe injuries from hoodie strings becoming entangled in rotating machinery. One hoodie string injury resulted in multiple plastic surgeries over years to the repair the damage. Hoodies are allowed at Apollo however the hoodie strings are NOT allowed. Hoodie strings must be removed.

The Consequences

Entanglement in rotating machinery can have devastating consequences:

1. Severe injuries, including cuts, bruises, scalping and fractures.
2. Traumatic limb loss or amputation.
3. Fatalities in extreme cases.

HEALTHY OR SAFETY REMINDER: Always conduct pre-use inspection to ensure proper machine guarding to prevent accidental contact with moving parts.

Preventive Measures

To prevent entanglement in rotating machinery, consider these safety measures:

1. Proper Clothing: Avoid wearing hoodies with strings, loose clothing with long strings, untucked long hair or long beards when working near rotating equipment.
2. Remove Secure Hoodie Strings: Remove hoodie strings to prevent them from hanging loose.
3. Machine Guarding: Ensure that machinery is equipped with proper guarding to prevent access to moving parts.
4. Safety Training: Educate employees about the risks of entanglement and the importance of wearing appropriate work attire.
5. Regular Inspections: Conduct routine inspections of machinery to identify and address potential hazards promptly.
6. Lockout-Tagout: Follow lockout-tagout procedures to de-energize and isolate machinery before maintenance or repair work.
7. Emergency Response: Establish clear emergency response protocols in case of an entanglement incident, including first aid and emergency shut-off procedures.
8. Reporting Unsafe Conditions: Report any unsafe conditions or near misses immediately to your supervisor or your Safety and health representative.

Conclusion

Safety at the workplace is a collective responsibility. By raising awareness about the risks rotating machinery entanglement and implementing preventive measures, we can significantly reduce the likelihood of accidents related to rotating machinery. Remember, taking these precautions not only protects your well-being but also ensures a safer environment for everyone. Let's prioritize safety and keep our workplaces accident-free.

Discussion Points/Quiz Questions:

1. Why are hoodie strings not allowed at Apollo?
2. What could be the consequences of getting long hair or a long beard caught in rotating machinery?
3. Who can you report an unsafe tool or machinery condition to?