



Mission Success Starts With Safety



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# SSC Monthly Construction Contractor Meeting

## Safety Presentation

### Beware Of Pinch Points

March 03, 2022



# Beware of Pinch Points



**NASA Mishap Information System (NMIS), Safety+Health Magazine & Syncom Space Services (S3) VPP Alert (21-004)**

A pinch point is - any point at which it is possible for a person or part of a person's body to be caught between moving parts of a machine, or between the moving and stationary parts of a machine, or between material and any part of the machine. Pinch points commonly impact fingers and hands but can impact any area of the body.

In September of last year, a lost time hand injury was reported. While performing preventive maintenance (PM) on a forklift battery, the battery tipped, smashing the fingers of an employee's right hand between the battery and a beam. The following month, while assisting in closing the lift gate on a box truck, an employee's finger was injured.

## Safe Plan of Action

Keep your fingers, hands, toes, and feet away from pinch points by using machine guards, practicing safe moving and carrying techniques, and giving all tasks your full attention. Machine guards can help prevent you from reaching into, through, over, under or around the pinch point. Any guards in place for protection should not be tampered or modified to circumvent the guards. Any unguarded pinch points found during work processes should be reported.

# National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) Warehouse Battery Preventive Maintenance (PM) Mishap

An employee was performing a preventative maintenance (PM) task on a forklift battery when it rolled too far, tipped, and fell, pinching their fingers between the battery and a structural beam. The battery was a several hundred-pound industrial battery. Their coworker used a pry bar to free them, but they had sustained injuries to their fingers which required a trip to the emergency room for treatment.

A Stop Work Action was implemented immediately following the mishap.

The details were included in a SACOM VPP Safety Alert and sent to all employees (MAF and SSC) the following day.

(Information within the Safety Bulletin is included in this slide).



The battery reached its "tipping point" just as the worker reached out to stop the movement.

This incident occurred quickly and unexpectedly with a worker's hand in the line of fire. Incidents like this highlight the importance of fully analyzing our work for potential pinch points and ALL potential hazards. It had never happened before (at least no one had been injured before) but this event showed:

- 1- Gravity never sleeps. Things will eventually fall.
- 2- We can never place our hands (or other parts of our body) in places or situations we did not plan for.
- 3- We must ensure we have enough workspace while performing our duties.
- 4- We must follow original equipment manufacturer (OEM) safety guidelines.

In this case, support for the battery could have prevented the mishap.



A battery roll-out stand was purchased and placed into use to prevent unsupported movement during battery maintenance.

**Plan your work, and then work the plan. Hazard assessment means planning not only how we will do the work, but where will our hands and other parts be while we work.**