

Remove Your Gloves When Using Machinery with Accessible Rotating or Moving Parts!

What happened in Massachusetts?

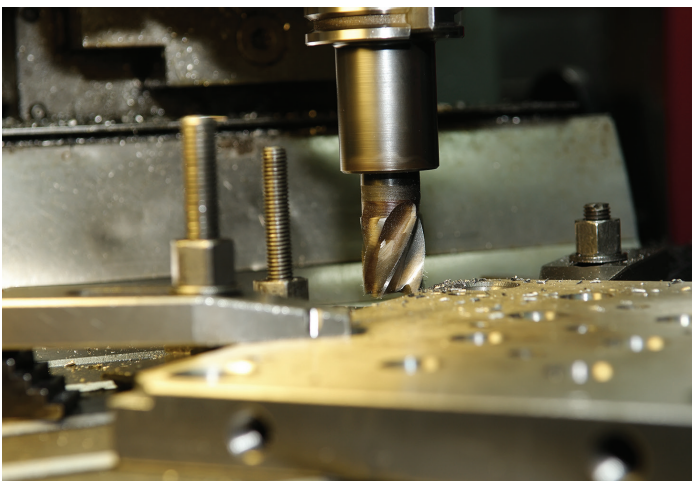
A number of severe finger and hand injuries, including amputations, have been documented in Massachusetts, and across the U.S., as the result of workers wearing gloves while operating machinery with accessible moving parts. Many more similar incidents likely go undocumented.

Gloves can be important personal protective equipment to protect hands, but should only be worn when appropriate for the task being performed, which almost *never* includes operating machinery with accessible moving parts. Wearing gloves under such circumstances can *increase* risk of injury, as illustrated below.



Vocational student on co-op injured while operating a jointer

In 2008, a high school student enrolled in a Chapter 74-approved vocational technical education carpentry program was injured while participating in a cooperative work experience at a millwork company. While operating a jointer with a guard, the student's left hand was pulled into the machine when their glove came in contact with the machine's rotating spindle, resulting in an injury. At the hospital, the student's left-hand ring finger was amputated at the middle knuckle.



Assembler suffers amputation while operating a milling machine

In 2016, an employee of a sensor manufacturer was wearing gloves while operating a milling machine. The glove on the worker's left hand got caught in the machine's rotating spindle, pulling their hand into the machine and resulting in the partial amputation of their left thumb. The company was cited by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) for not supplying the worker with adequate training on the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

To prevent severe injuries, including amputations:

- **Never wear gloves when operating machinery with accessible rotating or other moving parts.** This includes, but is not limited to, most woodworking and machining equipment such as drill presses, lathes, sanders, jointers, milling machines, grinders, and roll forming machines.
- **Workplace policies and procedures should specify where, when and what type of glove use is appropriate.** Employers should develop and train employees on these policies and in the proper use of any assigned equipment.
- **Never remove manufacturer-provided machine guards and safety devices,** and ensure that these safety devices are always used and never bypassed by workers.
- **Include signage on machinery** that should not be operated while wearing gloves, to help reinforce policies.
- **Employers should explore all possible ways to remove hazards,** including eliminating employee exposure to accessible rotating and moving machine parts.



Sample signage to put on machinery.

Resources

GENERAL RESOURCES

On-site Consultation Program, MA Department of Labor Standards (DLS)

DLS offers *free* consultation services to help employers recognize and control potential hazards at their worksites, and assists in training employees.

www.mass.gov/dols/consult

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor

Safeguarding Equipment and Protecting Employees from Amputations

www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3170.pdf

Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA)

DIA has grants to provide workplace safety training to employees. Companies covered by the state's Workers' Compensation Insurance Law may apply.

www.mass.gov/lwd/workers-compensation/safety

SPECIFIC INCIDENT REPORTS

MA FACE, MA Department of Public Health

Investigation Report: A Cooperative Placement 11th Grade Student was Injured while Operating a Jointer in a Millwork Shop - Massachusetts

www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/occupational-health/fatal-reports/fatal-report-student-jointer.pdf

Full investigation reports on additional incidents are available online.

www.mass.gov/dph/FACE

OR FACE, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences

Fatality Report: Experienced Journeyman Machinist Killed While Operating an Engine Lathe

www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/pdfs/12OR018.pdf



About FACE Facts | MA FACE: MA FACE (Massachusetts Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation) seeks to prevent work fatalities by identifying and investigating these incidents and developing prevention strategies for those who can intervene in the workplace. MA FACE is supported by cooperative agreement # U60OH008490 from CDC-NIOSH. This document may be copied freely and found online at www.mass.gov/dph/FACE. If you have comments or questions, call the MA FACE Project at 1-800-338-5223.