

INJURY INVESTIGATION REPORT

FACE Facts

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Please
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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in cooperation with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, conducts investigations of fatal work-related injuries and occasionally serious non fatal injuries. The project, known as FACE (Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation), seeks to identify the factors that contribute to these occupational injuries. The Face Project will help in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing occupational injuries in the future.

We hope you find the "FACE Facts" informative and that you will share it with others. This document is in the public domain and may be copied freely.

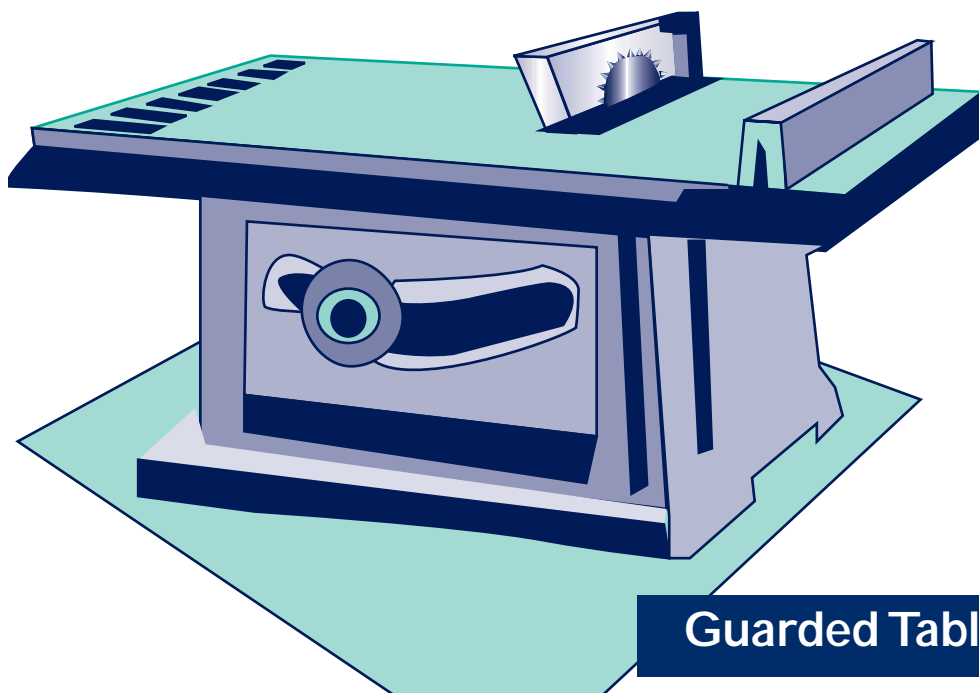
If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 617-624-5628.



A 15-Year-Old Student Amputates Fingers While Operating an Unguarded Table Saw in Woodworking Class - Massachusetts

Industrial arts provides students with important opportunities to learn technical skills and introduces them to the work environment. Occupational safety and health is a crucial component of this work preparation, both for safety in the school shop and to develop safe work skills for the future.

Incident: In 2003, a 15-year-old student amputated one left finger (both joints) and a portion of another left finger and thumb while operating an unguarded table saw in a woodworking class at a school. The saw, manufactured in 1991 and equipped with a 10-inch woodworking blade, was located in the woodworking shop, near the shop door. The student was making a lengthwise cut (ripping) and reached around to the back side of the **unguarded** saw blade to grab the cut piece of wood. The student's two fingers and thumb came in contact with the rotating saw blade, resulting in the serious injuries to the left hand.



Guarded Tablesaw

To prevent similar incidents, schools that have woodworking shops should:

- Ensure that the manufacturers' supplied guards are installed on all table saws, and that the guards function properly and are used at all times.
- Position tables at the backside of saws to prevent the work pieces from falling off the saws and onto the floor.
- Design the woodworking shop layout to reduce distractions to equipment operators.
- Provide woodworking class conditions that at a minimum meet safety and health standards set by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and train students about these standards.

REFERENCES

- Code of Federal Regulations, 29 CFR 1910.213, Machinery and Machine Guarding, *Woodworking machinery requirements*.
- U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Small Business Safety Management Services, *A Guide for Protecting Workers from Woodworking Hazards*. OSHA 3157 1000.
- Delta International Machinery Corporation, *Instruction Manual, Ten-inch Contractor's Saw*. Model. 34-444, 10-15-91.
- National Safety Council, *Safeguarding Concepts Illustrated* 6th Edition. 1995.