



<b>Number</b>	2024-02	<b>Date of Issue</b>	26 Jan 2024
<b>Date of Incident</b>	03 Jan 2024	<b>Incident Classification</b>	Lost workday case, Restricted work case.

**Summary:** A plant operator/maintenance technician was cleaning an operating conveyor when he put his hand into it to remove a piece of debris stuck on the tailpiece roller. His gloved hand and arm were pulled into the nip point between the tailpiece roller and belt.

**Outcome:** The employee received contusions on his hand, arm and shoulder. He was not able to return to work but then released to restricted work as he was able to work from home using an IPAD to remotely monitor the plant.

**Pictures:**



**Root Causes and Contributory Factors**

Root cause: The equipment is prone to require frequent (daily) operator attention / cleaning

Contributory factors:

1. There was a section of the conveyor that was not guarded allowing easy access to moving parts.
2. There was no written procedure for this routine work activity. A written procedure would require stopping and locking out the equipment before attempting to work on operating equipment.
3. The emergency stop cable was not accessible to the employee.
4. The employee did not shut down the equipment and perform lockout tagout to prevent it from starting. Working on energized equipment is a high risk activity.

**Lesson Learned**

Equipment should be designed/selected to be adequate for its purpose with operations and maintenance safety and ergonomics a consideration.

1. Hazards need to be identified and guarded. Guards, barricades and signs in place greatly reduce the likelihood of employees exposure to hazards, doing the wrong things and injuries.
2. Written procedures should be developed even for routine activities to document the 'right way of working'. Without the procedures (and also signs and warnings), employees are more likely to take inappropriate risks.
3. When looking at or inspecting equipment, recognize hazards considering 'what if' scenarios.
4. Employees need to be continually reminded of the requirements to shutdown and lockout equipment before doing maintenance.



Every Lesson Learned is an opportunity to avoid recurrences.  
What have you done to avoid a similar incident on your project?

