

# Safety and health alert

## 09/94 Serious injury - amputation of left arm

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### Incident

A worker had his left arm amputated while cleaning accumulated clay from a conveyor tail end pulley drum. The worker was using a piece of timber to scrape the accumulated clay from the moving tail end pulley drum when his arm became entangled in the conveyor, resulting in the amputation.

Several other recent incidents of a similar nature have illustrated the potential for serious or fatal accidents due to inadequately guarded machinery. Problems have then been compounded when employees attempt maintenance or repair work without isolating the plant in question, leading to tragic and entirely avoidable injury.

### Factors

- Inadequate guarding of machinery
- Non use of the lockout and tagging procedure.

### Recommendations

- Ensure adequate guarding to all conveyors to prevent employees access to moving components and nip points. Refer to Australian Standards AS1755 for minimum guarding requirements.
- Ensure adequate lockout and tagging procedures are in place and enforced where maintenance is required.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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