

Safety and health alert

09/02 Worker fatally injured by hay baling machine

Incident

A worker was fatally injured when operating an unguarded hay-baling machine. The worker was in the area of the machine where the scissor arm compresses bales of hay. The machine activated the hydraulic ram attached to the scissor arm and she was caught between the two components, receiving fatal crush injuries.

The worker was last seen standing in front of the electronic control panel by one of the two other employees working near the machine, but neither saw the accident.

It appears the worker had entered the machine to start cleaning it while the machine was activated.

Factors

1. The machine was not adequately guarded.
2. There was not an adequate lock-out system in place.
3. Although the employees who operated the machine had been trained, there was no operator's manual available for the machine.

Recommendations

1. That all dangerous moving parts of machines be adequately guarded.
2. Ensure that machines have a documented lock-out system in place and that employees are trained in the procedure.

Further Information

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

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