

Safety Blast

Distractions

Distractions can be extremely dangerous when working with machinery because they can cause workers to lose focus on the task at hand, which can lead to serious accidents and injuries.

Here are some situations where distractions can be particularly hazardous when working with machinery:

- During start-up or shutdown: When machinery is being turned on or off, workers need to be particularly focused on the process. A distraction during this time could cause a worker to miss a critical step or make a mistake that could lead to an accident.
- When performing maintenance or repairs: Machinery maintenance and repairs require a high degree of focus and attention to detail. Any distraction during this process can cause a worker to overlook a critical step, use the wrong tool or part, or make a mistake that could lead to a serious accident.
- When operating machinery or forklifts: Working near moving parts i.e. table saws, routers, CNC machines etc. can be particularly dangerous, especially if a worker becomes distracted. This can lead to entanglement, being struck by moving parts, amputation or even death.
- When working at heights: Any distraction when working at heights can be extremely dangerous, as it can cause a worker to lose their balance or grip and fall.

It's important to eliminate as many distractions as possible when working with machinery to ensure the safety of workers.



DO NOT DO THIS...

- Never distract one of your co-workers when they are working on machinery!
- Never suddenly drop items that will make a loud noise and startle those around you who may be working on machinery.
- Never sneak up behind a co-worker while they are working with machinery.



A workplace can never fully eliminate distractions. Workplace distractions that pose the greatest risks can be minimized, or even eliminated, with the right steps.

Keep an eye out for those who may be distracted from the job at hand.

Often times we are able to recognize differences and changes in behavior. Notify your supervisor if you recognize a distraction.