Machine Guarding — Landscaping Stats and Facts



FACTS

Key hazards related to machine guarding in the landscaping industry

- 1. **Contact with Moving Parts:** Inadequate or missing machine guards can expose workers to moving parts of equipment such as blades, belts, and gears. This can lead to lacerations, amputations, and crushing injuries.
- 2. **Entanglement:** Loose clothing, jewelry, or body parts can become entangled in unguarded machinery. This is particularly dangerous with rotating parts like augers or chainsaws.
- 3. **Flying Debris:** Lack of proper guards on equipment like lawnmowers and trimmers can result in debris being ejected at high speeds. This poses a risk of eye injuries, cuts, or bruises to workers.
- 4. **Bypassing Guards:** Workers may bypass or remove guards to expedite work, leading to direct exposure to hazardous parts of the machinery. This practice significantly increases the risk of accidents and injuries.
- 5. **Inadequate Maintenance:** Guards that are not regularly inspected and maintained can become loose, damaged, or ineffective, failing to protect workers from moving parts.
- 6. **Inadequate Training:** Workers who are not properly trained in the importance of machine guarding may not use or respect the guards, increasing the likelihood of unsafe practices and accidents.
- 7. **Inadequate Guarding for Specific Tasks:** Some tasks require guarding that is correctly used.

STATS

- (OSHA) cites machine guarding violations as one of the top 10 most frequently violated standards across all industries. In 2019, there were over 2,000 violations cited under the machine guarding standard.
- It's estimated that 18,000 injuries and 800 deaths occur annually due to inadequate machine guarding in the U.S.
- In Ontario, Canada, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) reported that machine-related injuries are among the leading causes of workplace injuries in sectors involving heavy equipment.
- The landscaping industry is known for its high injury rates. Between 2001 and 2017, of the 18,037 workers' compensation claims analyzed, 3,311 were classified

- as serious injuries. The percentage of serious injuries increased from 16% to 21% during this period.
- While specific statistics for landscaping are not detailed, machine-related injuries across industries can include amputations, lacerations, and crush injuries. These injuries often occur when machinery is not properly guarded.