



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



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Pinch Points & Crushing Hand Injuries

Hands and fingers are frequently exposed to **pinch points and line-of-fire hazards** during routine work activities. Incidents across operations have resulted in **smashed fingers, lacerations, and fractures** when hands were placed between moving, shifting, or suspended objects.

What Happened

Employees have sustained hand and finger injuries while:

- Carrying scaffold bars and materials
- Placing hands on hatches or equipment being lifted or lowered
- Manually handling equipment that shifted unexpectedly
- Working near moving or rotating components

In several cases, hands were placed **where they “fit but shouldn’t be”**, between fixed and moving objects or underneath loads.

What Could Have Happened

These incidents had the potential to result in:

- Amputations
- Permanent loss of finger function
- Crushing injuries requiring surgery
- Serious Injury or Fatality (SIF) events due to stored energy or load movement

Key Contributing Factors

- Hands used for positioning instead of tools
- Working in the line of fire
- Inadequate awareness of stored or shifting energy
- Poor hand placement during manual handling
- Complacency during routine tasks



Required Actions / Expectations

All employees and supervision must take the following actions:

- **Identify pinch points**, before starting work, stop if hands could be caught, crushed, or pinched.
- **Always keep hands out of the line-of-fire**
- **Never place hands under suspended or shifting loads**
- **Use push poles, tag lines, or tools**, not hands to position materials
- **Pause and reassess** when equipment, loads, or parts are moving
- **Wear appropriate gloves**, understanding gloves do **not** protect against crushing injuries
- **Stop work immediately** if conditions change or hazards are not controlled



Discuss how hands can be injured during each task, and what controls are in place. If your hand can be injured when something moves, **it doesn't belong there.**

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment



SAFETY ALERT