



Safety Flash
SF-2017-036
IMPACT #9567

Pinch-Point Injury of Left Ring Finger

Event Location:

Satellite Office Building at LAR

Date of Event:

June 7, 2017

Event Description:

Two heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) contractors were given permission to visually inspect a building air conditioner (AC) pulley belt on the return air fan. During the task, one of the contract employee's fingers became caught between the belt and pulley. The pinch-point injury required medical treatment, involving stitches and prescription medication, making this an OSHA recordable injury.

Immediate Observations:

- ✓ No permit was issued because visual inspection does not require a permit or Job Hazard Analysis (JHA).
- ✓ Prior to inspection of the AC return air fan, the power to the return air fan was turned off.
- ✓ The AC supply air fan was left on because they were only inspecting the belt of the return air fan. The draft from the AC supply air fan caused the AC return air fan to continue rotating, causing its pulley belt to rotate.
- ✓ The injured contract worker was trying to inspect the belt of the return air fan for cracks. To get a better view of the belt, the injured contract worker tried to slow down the belt with a wrench and then with his left hand.
- ✓ The injured worker was wearing gloves at the time of the incident.

Lessons:

- ✓ Workers who are doing visual inspections must understand what tasks are and aren't covered by the term "visual inspection".
- ✓ It is a best practice to de-energize **ALL** energy sources when possible, even if the task is just a visual inspection.

Important: A Tesoro Safety Flash communicates immediate observations about an Event and does not replace any ongoing investigation.



Safety Flash
SF-2017-036
IMPACT #9567



Picture shows the belt and pulley of the AC return air fan. Finger was caught in between belt and the pulley.



Picture shows that the AC return air switch was off prior to inspection. AC supply air fan's power remained on.

Important: A Tesoro Safety Flash communicates immediate observations about an Event and does not replace any ongoing investigation.