

Conveyors are safe when used correctly

Labor-saving devices that reduce the amount of manual labor needed are a valuable addition to any workplace. Such devices drastically reduce the likelihood of straining a worker's back, legs, arms or hands.

Since work capacity is thereby increased, production also increases. A conveyor is one such labor-saving device that is widely used to safely and efficiently move products and materials.

When used correctly, conveyors are one of the safest pieces of machinery around. Conveniently available in many sizes and designs, each one is developed to accomplish a specific task. Use the correct conveyor for the job at hand. They should never be used to transport humans or as an adult toy.

When working with or in close proximity to conveyors you must follow some basic safety precautions:

Basic Safety Precautions

- Never crawl under or over a conveyor
- Never sit upon, stand or ride a conveyor
- Never attempt to operate a conveyor until you have been properly trained on operation and shutdown procedures and have been authorized to operate it
 - ◆ Workers and others who work close to the conveyors should know how to shut the conveyor down in an emergency
 - ◆ Consult your supervisor if you need training
- Never attempt to clean or clear any conveyor belts, parts, or jammed sections while the conveyor is in operation
 - ◆ Some of the most common injuries result from retrieving a glove or reaching for a wrench while the conveyor is still running

Repairing conveyors

Workers tend to underestimate how quickly they can be caught. Always stop the conveyor and lock out the controls while repairing or cleaning the machine. Do not restart the conveyor until the area is entirely clear. Pinch points should have the appropriate barrier guards installed.

Overhead conveyors

In the case of an overhead conveyor, operators must be extremely cautious to ensure that materials or products will not fall and injure another employee.

If the conveyor utilizes a system of hooks to transport material, care must be taken to ensure that workers or other employees are not struck. If a conveyor is head-high, ensure that employees travel in marked, designated areas and do not come too close to the machine.

Secure loose-fitting clothing and remove dangling jewelry

Jewelry such as necklaces and bracelets can be hazardous. Rings are particularly hazardous because if they become lodged in a moving conveyor a finger can become mangled or torn.

During servicing, some workers reach past the guards and get tangled in the belts, pulleys, rolls, sprockets, or chains.

Follow all safety rules

As with any type of machinery, conveyor workers should know and follow basic rules of safety. You should quickly report any unsafe condition, missing guards, malfunction or defect to your supervisor.

Following some simple precautions will help eliminate potential hazards and protect yourself and your coworkers from possible injury.

Information contained in this publication was obtained from sources believed to be reliable. State Auto Insurance makes no representations or guarantee as to the correctness or sufficiency of any information contained herein, nor guarantees results based upon use of this information. State Auto Insurance disclaims all warranties expressed or implied regarding merchantability, fitness for use and fitness for a particular purpose. State Auto Insurance does not warrant that reliance upon this document will prevent accident and losses or satisfy federal, state and local codes, ordinances and regulations. The reader assumes entire risk as to use of this information. Further, this document does not amend, or otherwise affect the terms, conditions or coverage of any insurance policy issued by State Auto Insurance.