Conveyor Safety

**Efficient and effective when used properly**

A conveyor is often the most efficient method for moving material, because it can carry material from one operation to another without it being loaded onto a forklift or handcart by workers at each step of the process. Unfortunately, large moving machinery, like a conveyor, can present serious hazards for anyone working close to it.

Follow these important safety rules for working around conveyors:

- Know where the “start” and “stop” buttons are. Are they clearly marked? Keep the area around them clear at all times, because in case of an emergency, it is vital to get to them immediately. Most conveyors have extra emergency pull cords that run the length of the conveyor.
- Know about any extra safety devices in your facility.
- Know the warning signal when the conveyor is being started.
  - Ensure no workers are too close to the conveyor before starting it up.
  - Obey all signs warning of danger areas.
- Never climb, step, walk, or ride on a conveyor.
- Ensure all guards are in place—they are there to protect you.
- Don’t start equipment if a visual inspection shows any problems.
- Know the load limit for the conveyor and never exceed it.
- Practice good housekeeping around the conveyor—loose pieces of scrap or dust and dirt can cause a clog or jam.
- NEVER try to clear a jam when the conveyor is running! Doing so is a recipe for disaster—maybe a deadly one.
  - Stop the conveyor, turn off the power, and clear the jam only if it is obvious how to do so and your supervisor permits it.
  - Sound the warning signal before restarting the conveyor.
- If in doubt about how to proceed, call your supervisor or a repairman.

Following lockout/tagout procedures may be necessary to clear the jam and prevent it from happening again. Only authorized employees who have had special training are allowed to perform lockout/tagout procedures.

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**ASSE WORK ZONE SAFETY**

In one recent year, 835 deaths resulted from motor vehicle crashes in road construction work zones in the United States. The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) published a list of safety tips for preventing deaths and injuries in road work zones.

Among them:

- Pay attention to the orange warning signs or electronic message boards posted in advance of a construction project.
- Minimize distractions such as changing radio stations and using a cell phone while driving in a work zone.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Use extra caution when driving through a site at night.
- Don’t speed up or slow down significantly while going through a work zone.
- Don’t tailgate, because most work zone accidents are rear-end collisions.

ASSE has also released its Work Zone Safety for Highway Construction standard, A10.47-2009.

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**CONVEYOR FASHION**

What not to wear:

- Loose clothing
- Long hair that is not covered or tied back

What to wear:

- Sturdy shoes and a hard hat
- Safety glasses and a dust mask

Conveyors are designed to make operations more efficient. By taking precautions, you benefit from the conveyor’s efficiencies and minimize its potential hazards. Remember the safety rules and follow them every time.

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*“Brad, that is an inappropriate use of the conveyor belt. Also, those shorts are too revealing.”*
**Bicycle Benefits**

*Cycle your way to wellness*

Do you think of bicycles as being “just for kids”? Think again. Bicycling provides many benefits to riders of all ages. According to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC – www.bicyclinginfo.org), bicycling benefits us in the following areas: health, transportation, environmental/energy, economic, and quality of life. Let’s look at each one:

1. **Health**—Too many Americans are overweight or obese. To help America lose weight, experts recommend at least 30 minutes of exercise 4 to 5 days a week. Bicycling is a low-impact aerobic workout that strengthens your legs and knees. And it’s fun, especially with family and friends riding alongside.

2. **Transportation**—Cycling to work or errands saves wear and tear on your vehicle and creates less congestion on the roads.

3. **Environmental/Energy**—Bicycles produce no emissions, so the more trips you can make on your bike instead of in your car cuts down on pollution. And you provide the energy to move bikes, so using them cuts down on energy use.

4. **Economic**—Cycling helps your finances by saving money on gas as well as by keeping low mileage on your vehicle so you may be able to keep it longer.

5. **Quality of life**—Riding bikes is a fun and social activity that families can enjoy together. It’s also a wonderful way to get outdoors in the sunshine and fresh air. And it’s an activity you can enjoy well into retirement.

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**Lyme Disease**

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by the bite of a deer tick (eastern U.S.) or black-legged tick (western U.S.). Signs of infection include:

- Flu-like symptoms, e.g., headache, stiff neck, fever, muscle aches, and fatigue
- A circular rash that resembles a bruise or a bullseye at the site of the bite

To prevent Lyme disease:

- Avoid tick-infested areas.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, white socks over pant cuffs, and outdoor shoes.
- Use tick repellent.
- Perform tick checks periodically while working and after you come inside.
- Remove ticks properly.

To remove ticks:

- Use a fine-point tweezers to grasp the tick at the place of attachment, as close to the skin as possible.
- Gently apply a firm, steady pressure until the tick releases. Don’t jerk, twist, squash, or squeeze the tick. Wait for it to release.
- Clean the wound with antiseptic.

**Toxin Plant Facts**

Half the U.S. population is allergic to poisonous plants. It’s the sticky sap (urushiol) from plants that causes the allergic reaction.

If you’re allergic and come in contact with a poisonous plant, an itchy rash will develop 2 to 3 days after exposure. If you have sap on your hands, you can spread the rash to other parts of your body. It takes only a billionth of a gram of sap to cause an allergic reaction. Urushiol can stay active on any surface for up to 5 years.

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**Conveyor Quiz**

*Test your knowledge*

1. A conveyor is not a very efficient method for moving material from one area of the workplace to another. **True (T) False (F)**
2. The only way to stop a conveyor is with its “stop” button. **T F**
3. Never climb, step, walk, or ride on a conveyor. **T F**
4. Loose pieces of scrap or dust and dirt can cause a clog or jam. **T F**
5. Never try to clear a jam when the conveyor is running. **T F**
6. In case of a jam, stop the conveyor, shut it off, and clear the jam. **T F**
7. Only authorized employees who have had special training are allowed to perform lockout/tagout procedures. **T F**
8. Never wear loose clothing around a conveyor. **T F**
9. Long hair can be a hazard—cover it or tie it back. **T F**
10. You never need special clothing in order to work near a conveyor. **T F**

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**Answers**

1. F – A conveyor is often the most efficient method. 2. F – Most conveyors have emergency pull cords that run the length of the conveyor. 3. T – Wear safety glasses and a dust mask if you work under a conveyor. 4. F – Wear sturdy shoes. 5. T – Call your supervisor if you suspect an emergency. 6. T – Shut it off if you work under a conveyor. 7. F – Call your supervisor if you suspect an emergency. 8. F – Most conveyors have emergency pull cords that run the length of the conveyor.

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