

2.5 General Machine Hazards

Machinery offer a wide range of potential sources of hazardous energy which may result in serious injury or death. Hazardous energy can come from a variety of sources. **Appendix E** provides illustrations and examples of common hazardous machine motions and actions.

Certain common operations performed on machines are particularly hazardous to machine operators. These operations can include but are not limited to lubrication, maintenance, adjustments, inspections, clearing jams or debris, cleaning, and machine setup. These tasks often require an individual to place hands or other body parts within proximity to dangerous machine parts. It is important that workers maintain their focus on the task being performed and follow approved SOPs to prevent dangerous situations from occurring. Workers must also strictly follow the appropriate Lockout/Tagout procedures to ensure that the machine is inoperable prior to commencing any of these types of tasks. See the Rowan University Academic & Research Lockout/Tagout Policy for further information on applicable Lockout/Tagout requirements.

Loose fitting clothing and jewelry must not be worn while operating machinery due to the risk of entanglement. Long hair as well as long beards must be securely tied back to prevent entanglement in moving machine parts. Hair, clothing, and jewelry can become caught in rotating components and pull a person in before they have a chance to react. Incidents such as these often result in serious injuries and in some cases fatalities.

Being distracted or impaired in any way while operating machinery significantly increases the chances of an injury occurring. When working with machinery, it is critical that all attention is focused on the work being performed. Talking with someone in the room, listening to music, or using a cell phone is a distraction that can cause an operator to lose focus on the work task being performed. Distractions can result in ruined work pieces, damaged machines, personal injury, and death. It is critical that individuals who are fatigued, ill, or impaired by a drug or other substance do not perform work with machinery until after they have recovered. At no time may anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs be admitted to spaces containing machinery. PI's, Faculty, and Staff overseeing machine operation are ultimately responsible for promptly dismissing any student found to be impaired or in any state that places themselves or others at risk.