Machine Guarding 2 Fatality File

Two Employees in 10 Days Suffer Severe Injuries at Green Bay Manufacturer

Bay Fabrication faces more than $219,000 in proposed penalties because machinery was returned to service before providing effective safety guards.

One worker’s hand was crushed, and another suffered the partial amputation of a finger during a bloody 10-day period in July 2016. The two men, employees at Green Bay muffler component manufacturer Bay Fabrication, suffered severe injuries as they operated machinery without adequate safety guards and procedures in place, according to OSHA investigators.

On Jan. 18, OSHA issued one willful, one repeated, one other-than-serious violation and two serious violations to Bay Fabrication. The company, part of the Bay Family of Companies, with 75 locations in the U.S., faces $219,242 in proposed penalties.

“The fact that two workers suffered debilitating injuries is tragic. The reality is that the company failed to re-evaluate its machine safety procedures and continued to expose other workers to the same hazards even after these injuries,” said Robert Bonack, OSHA’s area director in Appleton, Wisc. “Adequate and properly installed machine safety guards and lockout/tag out procedures must be in place to prevent workers from coming in contact with operating parts.”

Investigators determined a worker had his left hand crushed on July 21, 2016, by a molding machine, when the tamp head smashed his hand as he removed a mold from the machine. According to OSHA, the machine’s safety interlock on the door guarding the operating

parts was damaged and not functional properly, which disabled the safety guard and led to the injury.

On July 30, 2016, another worker suffered the partial amputation of his left middle finger. In this instance, investigators found the molding machine cycled and caught his finger in an unguarded pinch point. They determined the machine was not locked out as required.

OSHA also found the company:

- Failed to guard operating parts on various machines in the facility.
- Improperly installed safety guards on machines that created a hazard for employees.
- Failed to record work related injury on the illness and injury logs.