

8/10/2019

# Crush fatality in factory

11 September 2019

## Incident overview

*A 32 year-old man sustained fatal injuries at a factory in St Marys when he became caught in a timber pallet-making machine.*



Photograph of pallet making machine involved in the incident.

## The investigation

- SafeWork NSW inspectors responded to the incident.
- SafeWork NSW commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.

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## Safety Information

You have a duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) and [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017](#).

Consider 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risk of plant in the workplace.

Use the following risk management process:

- Identify all foreseeable hazards associated with machinery, including mechanical hazards, such as entanglement, impact and cutting, and non-mechanical hazards, such as ergonomic, electrical, dust, confined spaces and the like.
- Manage the risks associated with these hazards.
- Use the most effective machine guarding, such as permanently fixed guards or interlocked guards, that don't rely on human behaviour – make sure the guards can't contact moving parts.
- Control access to dangerous areas, screen harmful emissions, minimise noise and prevent ejected parts from striking people.
- Program machine re-setting, particularly during maintenance, to prevent unexpected start-up or movement.

When working with machinery:

- Do a pre-start check before using, to confirm it's safe.
- Make sure all guards are working.
- Use it for the purpose it was designed.
- Follow operating procedures when setting-up, operating, cleaning and maintaining.
- Don't remove guards or bypass safety devices.
- Isolate the machine and make sure all stored energy has dissipated before accessing hazardous areas.
- When doing maintenance in 'jogging mode', make sure guards remain in place and are effective in managing risks.

## Further information

- [Managing the risks of plant in the workplace COP](#)
- [Machine safety - Operators](#)
- [Machine guarding safety video](#)