

Worker's Foot Amputated, Lung Collapsed by 3.5 Ton Steel Container

Industry: Steel Manufacturing
Task: Grinding

Release Date: August 18, 2011
Occupation: Welder

A 22-year-old welder's foot was severed and a lung collapsed when a 7,000 lb steel container he was grinding tipped over onto him. After his injury, it was learned that the power rollers used to rotate the container were not aligned and needed replacement. New rollers were available but had not been installed. Additionally, the stop button for the power rollers was not working. Since the incident the welder has had multiple surgeries and has suffered from depression. After 26 months, he has yet to return to work.



Employer Requirements

- Verify that controls are within reach of the operator and that they can stop the machine. See [WAC 296-806-20008](#).
- Ensure emergency stop controls are kept in good working condition. See [WAC 296-806-20012](#).
- Protect employees from machine hazards created by falling objects by using one or more safeguarding methods. See [WAC 296-806-20038](#)

Recommendations

- All workers should be trained on how to recognize and minimize work hazards.
- Inspect working areas to ensure that they are free from hazards and set up properly.
- Report unsafe work stations and do not allow or do work in those areas until hazards have been corrected.

Resources

- Free workplace safety and health consultations are available from L&I at:
www.SafetyConsult.Lni.wa.gov
- L&I Job Safety Analysis Videos are available for loan at:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/lni/shrl/CatalogSearch.aspx?subjectID=58>
- An OSHA Job Hazard Analysis booklet can be found at:
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osh-a3071.pdf>

Need more information?

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