



**Attention** businesses, supervisors, and employees who use **Pro-Pak Model JN-ZK1 bagging machines** to package onions, potatoes, and other produce:

Bag-line employees were injured in 2 separate incidents because of pinch-points hazards created by exposed moving parts on onion bagging machinery.

Each employee had their fingers caught and injured by a retracting metal clamp which grabs the top of bags after filling and pulls them through a set of rollers toward a stitcher. (see photos).



Photo 1. Unguarded and dangerous: metal clamp arms extend and come together (pinch point #1) to grab the bag and pull it through rollers (pinch point #2) and on towards the stitcher.



Photo 2. The metal clamp (underside shown without an attached bag) has moved from the extended position shown in Photo 1 to a fully retracted position on the other side of the rollers.

Machine safeguarding and employee training on safe work practices are essential to prevent injuries to bagging machine operators. Possible safeguarding ideas include using a light curtain, barrier, pressure sensitive or restraint device to prevent employees from contacting the clamp. Check with equipment manufacturers for information about these safety features and make sure any modifications won't create other safety hazards.

Resources are available to help find and fix pinch-point hazards in your workplace:

- [Machine Guarding](#), an L & I safety topic page
- [Basics of Machine Safeguarding Hazards and Solutions](#), an online course designed for hazard awareness

**Please share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety networks. A Spanish version is available at [Hazard Alerts & Fatality Bulletins](#).**

If you have questions or comments about this eBulletin, please contact [nichole.rose@lni.wa.gov](mailto:nichole.rose@lni.wa.gov)