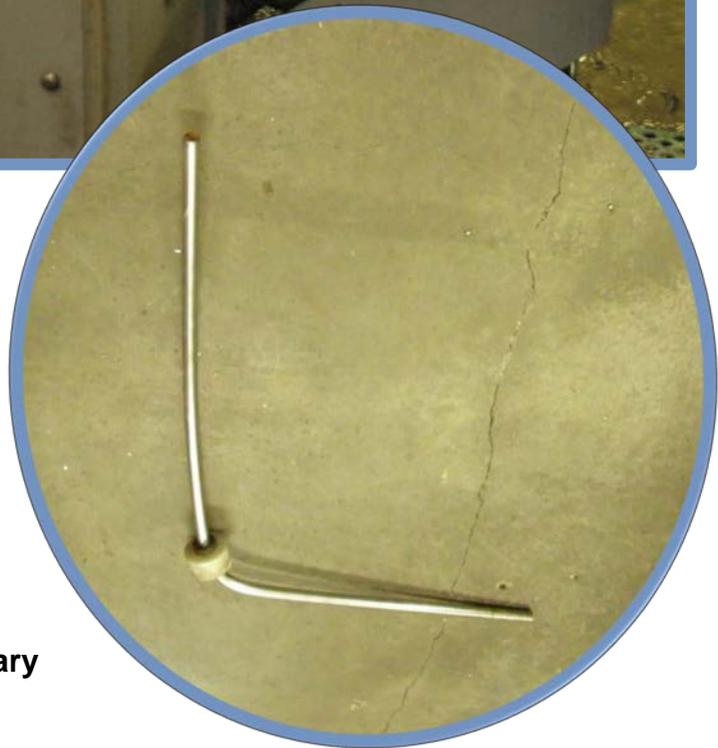


Machinist Dies After Being Struck by Rotating Steel Bar Stock in Lathe in Washington State



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The WA Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program has published a new Fatality Investigation report. These reports describe work-related fatal incidents and provide specific recommendations that may have prevented the incident from occurring. We hope that they are disseminated and used for formal or informal educational opportunities to help prevent similar incidents.

SUMMARY

On January 29, 2010, a 27-year-old machinist was fatally injured when he was struck by a piece of round stainless steel bar stock that he was machining in a computer numerical control (CNC) lathe. According to the general manager, the victim was machining washers from the round bar stock for a gill net reel frame. He had placed a 6 foot piece of the bar stock into HAAS TL-3W model lathe. Approximately 3 feet of the steel bar stock extended past the spindle and out of the lathe and was unsupported. As the victim was machining the round bar stock, the 3 foot unsupported portion extending through the spindle bent to nearly an 80 degree angle.

The general manager speculates that the victim heard the noise generated by the rapidly rotating round bar stock and went to investigate the source. As the victim approached the source of the noise coming from the back of the machine, he was struck by the bent piece of round bar stock. The general manager and a contractor heard a crash sound in the vicinity of the lathe and upon responding, found the victim unconscious.

To prevent similar incidences the Washington State Fatality and Control Evaluation Team (FACE) recommends that:

- **Employers should ensure that machinery hazards are abated with engineering controls.**
- **Employers should develop and enforce machine and hazard specific safety policies and procedures that address and abate hazards.**
- **Employers should develop a mandatory checklist for each set-up procedure to ensure that all steps are properly completed before machines are started.**

Designers and manufacturers of CNC lathes should:

- **Design CNC lathes with multiple safety systems including interlocks and fail safes.**

To access the full version of this investigation report along with the detailed recommendations and discussions section, go to www.lni.wa.gov and enter **52-25-2012** into the search box.