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).

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
- Machine Safeguarding Ideas Bank, a searchable collection of solutions to machine safety hazards

Please share this bulletin with others in your industry and safety networks. A Spanish version is available at http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics/HazAlerts.

If you have questions or comments about this eBulletin, please contact nichole.rose@lni.wa.gov

This bulletin was developed by L&I’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations. The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace hazards and describes relevant mandatory safety and health rules. DOSH recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.