



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Machine guards are essential to protect workers, students, and visitors from accidental contact or unauthorized access to machines with hazardous moving parts during their operation. Machines must only be operated with all guards intact and in operable condition as intended by the manufacturer. Machine guards come in a variety of configurations and serve different purposes. They cannot guard against the hazard if not installed, adjusted, and used as designed.

Minimum requirements for guards:

- Prevent contact
- Prevent objects from falling into the machine
- Be secure and not easily removed
- Allow for safe, efficient lubrication
- Create no interference with job function
- Create no additional hazards

Steps that can help you and others remain safe around machinery include:

- Never start a machine without guards in place.
- After routine maintenance or repairs, double check to ensure that all guards have been properly replaced.

- Make sure the following points are guarded:
 - Blades
 - Rotating parts
 - Points of operation
 - Areas where chips, sparks or other debris may fly out
- Never wear loose clothing or jewelry when working around machinery.
- Make sure you know how to turn the power off should an emergency arise.
- For machines that require “feeding”, always use a push block or stick. Never use your hands.
- Never reach around or under a machine guard.
- Before guards are removed for repair or adjustment, the power should be turned off, all devices de-energized and lockout procedures followed.
- Pay attention at all times when operating or working around machinery.

Supervisors/instructors are responsible for ensuring their employees/students are trained in the safe operation of the machines which will be used. Employees/students are responsible for notifying their supervisor if a guard is damaged or missing, for not operating a machine without operable guards as originally designed, and for not removing or otherwise modifying a guard.

For more info contact:
Leslie Woolington
MAFES/MSU-Extension
Risk Mgmt./Loss Control
662.325.3204

Sources:

From a Word document found deep in my safety files ...
I believe Terry Coggins & I wrote it several trips around the sun ago ☺