

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

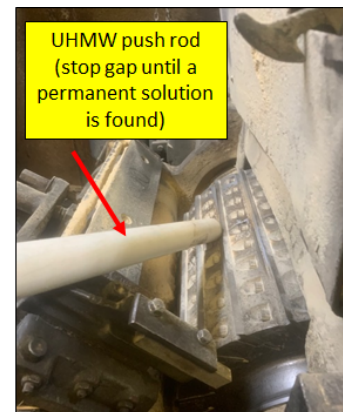
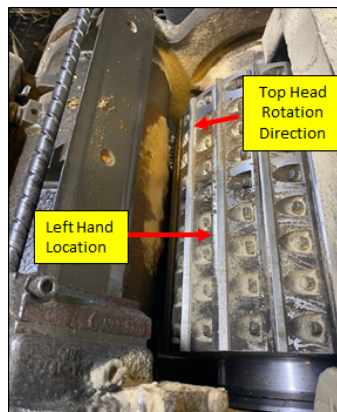
Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Fractured/Laceration of Fingertip

On a Friday, just before the weekend, the knives on the top head of a planer machine were replaced. The following Monday morning, a Maintenance Planer crew member inspected the machine before their shift began.

As part of the inspection, the crew member greased the top head to ensure it rotated freely. During this check, the top planer head got stuck. Wearing cut-resistant gloves, the crew member placed their left hand on the cutter head to rotate it forward and free it. The head turned abruptly, catching the crew member's left middle finger between the top head housing and a knife. This resulted in a laceration to the fingernail bed and a non-displaced fracture of the fingertip, requiring about 12 stitches.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Increase observations of the Planer Set Up, Knife Change and Side Head processes to identify potential hazards and improvement opportunities.
- Contact vendors to discuss using safer tools or methods for changing and inspecting top, bottom and side cutter heads.
- Revise and update all Planer knife changing and Planer Set Up SWPs based on the investigation's findings, including vendor recommendations.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Be aware of the rotational energy of spinning planer heads.

Always use a tool, never your hand, to rotate heads during inspections.

