

Arkansas Amputation Prevention Stand-Down

The sixth Arkansas Amputation Prevention Stand-Down is scheduled for September 17 - October 30, 2020. The purpose of the Stand-Down is to raise awareness of amputation hazards throughout various general industry establishments.

Amputations are preventable life changing events if the employer takes steps to adequately train employees and perform/document inspections of machinery and work procedures to eliminate hazards. Machine guarding has remained for the past several years, the top frequently cited violation by the OSHA Little Rock Area Office. Since the inception of the OSHA recordkeeping modifications in January 1, 2015, which now requires employers to report to OSHA within 24 hours of any amputations in the workplace, the local area office has received an influx of amputations throughout the state.

“The 2015 Arkansas Amputation Prevention stand-down drew over 10,000 participants in 16 different states and 2 foreign countries, therefore we are anticipating an even greater amount of participants to assist in the prevention of these life-altering, debilitating injuries,” stated Benjamin Ross, Regional Administrator, OSHA Region VI.

Companies conduct an Amputation Prevention Stand-Down by stopping work and providing a focused toolbox talk on topics such as machine guarding and/or lock-out/tag-out. The meeting provides information to workers about hazards, protective methods such as machine safeguarding, pullback devices, restraints, two-hand controls, and the company’s safety policies, goals and expectations.

During the Stand-Down period, activities for a company Stand Down should include:

- Employee training
- Inspections of machinery where the potential for amputations exist
- Corrections of any identified machine guarding hazards
- Reviewing all work procedures that are conducted in or around machine points of operation
- Review lock-out/tag-out programs

Stand Down resources include:

- Training and Inspecting Guide
- Fact sheets
- Poster
- Preparing for a successful Stand Down
- Reporting your Stand Down activities

Expectations for Amputation Stand Down Participants:

1. Employers will conduct a survey of all areas where obvious and potential amputation hazards may exist.
2. Conduct in-house training sessions with employees or affected individuals.
 - a. Train employees in the causes of amputation
 - b. Discuss what is proper machine guarding
 - c. Review all work procedures that are conducted in or among machine's point of operation
 - d. Review lockout/tagout programs
3. Assure safety devices that help to keep hands out of the point of operation are being used by the workers.
4. Conduct inspection of worksite to determine if hazards exist. Then list the number of hazards found and the number of employees removed from those hazards.
5. Email Juanita.matlock@arkansas.gov the company's Amputation Stand Down activities to print a certificate of participation.

If you have questions, to receive OSHA Fact Sheets, or to report company Stand Down activities, contact the OSHA Consultation Section at the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing at 501-682-4522 or clark.thomas@arkansas.gov.