



Boston University Environmental Health & Safety



Drill Press Awareness Reminder

(In person training mandatory)

Potential Hazards

- ▶ One of the most common causes of accidents that occur on a drill press is poor operator judgment. Often the operator will attempt to hand-hold the stock while drilling. When the drill enters the work, it can catch and twist the stock from the operator, which results in an uncontrolled rotating piece of wood. Other point-of-operation hazards include the rotating drill, which is rarely guarded, and hot chip generation.
- ▶ Because the drill press is such a commonly used machine; it often is cluttered with chips and scraps, which create a hazardous work area.

Solutions

- ▶ Guarding at the point of operation is difficult because of the nature of the drilling process. The drill gradually feeds into the work, it is changed very often, chips must be able to escape, and the stock must be moved around which all reduce the possibility of using guards at the drill. If guards are used, they probably will have to be removed during the actual drilling process. Whenever possible, a hold-down fixture should be used rather than the hands.
- ▶ Automatic machines and high-production machines should use barricades or enclosures to separate the worker from the entire drilling machine.
- ▶ Push button controls should be shrouded and an emergency shut-off switch installed near the machine. A main disconnect is necessary.
- ▶ Good housekeeping and operator training are absolute musts.

Proper training on Safety Awareness for each piece of equipment should be documented in the training log

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Environmental Health & Safety
Charles River Campus: 353-4094
Medical Campus: 638-8830
Web: <http://www.bu.edu/EHS>

Drill Press Awareness Training Record

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>BUID</u>	<u>Trainer Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>

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