

# Maintenance shop hazards

## Hazards: physical, electrical

Incidents or accidents do not just happen; they happen for a reason and are usually due to unsafe acts or conditions. The following is a list of incidents that have typically led to injuries and incidents in the workplace. This list focuses upon shop/maintenance work, but of course there are many other unsafe acts, conditions, or work activities that give cause for concern. Which of these conditions have you or your team perhaps worked under or overlooked in your shop or maintenance area?

1. Using a grinder with no tongue guard or properly adjusted work rest (1/8 in. max. clearance).
2. Adjusting or cleaning a machine while it is in operation.
3. Using an ungrounded or non-insulated portable electric hand tool.
4. Using frayed or poorly patched electrical cords.
5. Removing a machine guard or tampering with its adjustment.
6. Using compressed air to remove metal chips from work surfaces.
7. Using compressed air to blow dust or dirt off clothing or out of hair.
8. Working without safety glasses and/or a face shield in a designated eye-hazard area.
9. Failing to use ear plugs in work areas with high noise levels.
10. Wearing gloves, ties, rings, long sleeves, or loose clothing around machine tools.
11. Lifting an object that you know is too heavy for one person to handle.
12. Smoking in areas where flammables or combustibles are used or stored.
13. Storing spare oxygen and acetylene bottles near each other when not in use.
14. Using cranes beyond their load limits or with a missing safety latch on the hook.

The above actions have caused many serious, sometimes fatal, injuries in shops and workplaces—and are just not worth the possible consequences! Think about how many times you or someone around you may have taken one of these shortcuts and risked injury. Let us make a commitment to improve safety and keep these errors from occurring in the future.

**Site specific requirements:**

**Employee participants:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_