



FACE Program Alert

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

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Avoid Serious Injury or Death from Barn Gutter Cleaners or Alley Scrapers

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program warns farm operators and farm workers to be alert to potential hazards from barn gutter cleaners or alley scrapers. Amputations and deaths have been known to occur.

Potential Hazards:

- Entrapment in chain
- Entrapment in reverse curve
- Entrapment in cables and pulleys
- Entanglement in drive gears, sprockets, chains, or belts
- Electrocution

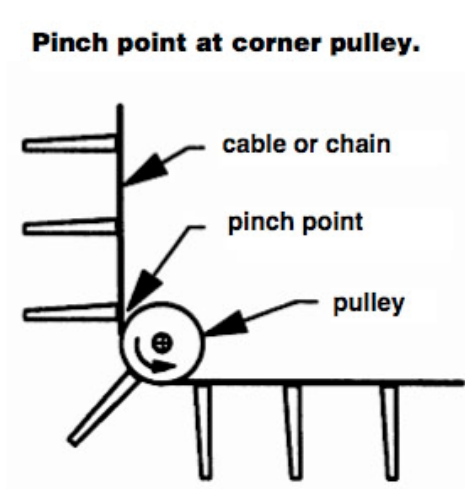
Preventive Measures:

1. Gutter cleaners and alley scrapers should be installed with shields over reverse curves, corner wheels, and other pinch points.
2. Any remodeling of barns with gutters should not create gaps between the barn cleaner chain and the gutter wall; one young Wisconsin child suffered an amputation after stepping into such a gap.
3. Covers should be provided over gutters that cross walkways or other high-traffic areas. Covers should be heavy enough to prevent sagging and located in such a way that they will not be displaced by normal foot traffic.
4. Guards and shields should be maintained on sprockets and chains, belts and pulleys, gears, and other power transmission components.
5. All power should always be shut off and locked out prior to any cleaning, maintenance, or service activities, to prevent severe injury and unexpected startup. This means using lockout/tagout procedures for switches, switch boxes, circuit breaker boxes, or other controls, to prevent energy from passing through and prevent other workers from turning the power back on. It also means

releasing any stored energy which could cause movement. (For more information on lockout procedures, see DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 99-110, “ALERT: Preventing Worker Deaths from Uncontrolled Release of Electrical, Mechanical, and Other Types of Hazardous Energy.”)

6. Warning signs should be prominently placed to warn of sudden equipment startup for alley scrapers on a timed schedule.
7. Children should be kept away from operating gutter cleaners and alley scrapers. Power units and pulleys for alley scrapers operating on timers with sudden startup should be fenced off or otherwise guarded.
8. Proper training, and periodic retraining and review, are necessary for all people working with or near barn cleaning equipment, including those who may be passing through or otherwise have incidental contact. Everyone working in or near the barn should know how to shut this and other barn equipment off. Proper training, and periodic retraining and review, are important. Trainers should always read and understand the operator’s manual and train workers to follow the manufacturer’s safety instructions.

This is a general list of hazards and injury prevention measures and is not meant to cover every possible circumstance. Individual operations, facilities, systems, machines, or situations may have unique hazards, and it is the responsibility of the farm operator or manager to be aware of such hazards and take appropriate action.



The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have any comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608-264-9879, or write:

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