

FACE Program Alert

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Department of Health and Family Services * Division of Public Health
Bureau of Occupational Health * 1 W. Wilson St. * PO Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701-2659 * (608) 264-9879
Publication Number PPH 44018

Avoid Serious Injury or Death from Crowd Gates or Other Powered Gates in Milking Parlors

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program warns farm operators and farm workers to be alert to potential hazards from milking parlor holding area crowd gates and other powered gates involved in handling cattle in and around the parlor. These gates have been involved in at least three fatalities in Wisconsin since the year 2000. Powered gates can crush body parts or prevent breathing and cause asphyxiation.

Potential Hazards:

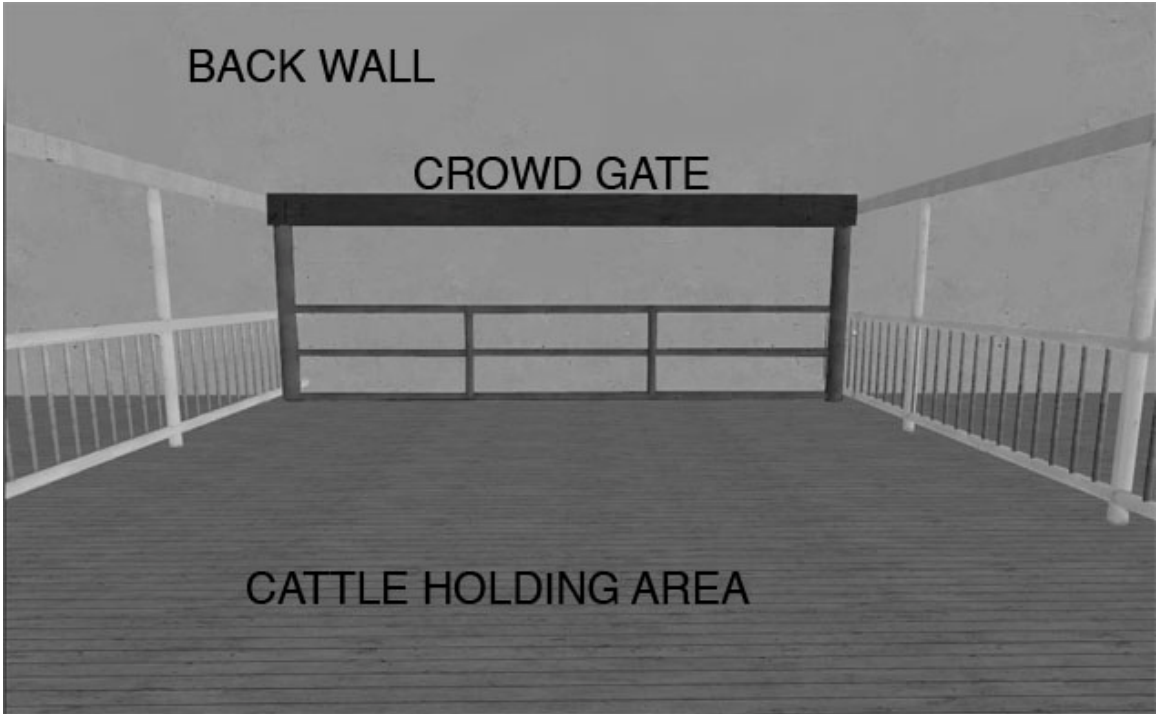
- Being crushed against a wall
- Being pinned between the gate and a post or other structural member of the parlor or cattle handling system
- Electrocutation

Preventive Measures:

1. A crowd gate should have a mechanical stop that physically prevents it from reaching the back wall of the holding area at any time, including during maintenance and repair as well as normal operation. The stop should maintain a gap between the gate and wall large enough for a person to fit comfortably; allowing the gate to get closer creates a potential crush zone (see illustrations). Electrical or mechanical stop switches or brakes, to control the crowd gate motor, can malfunction or fail and should never be relied upon to prevent the gate from reaching the back wall. Mechanical stops should never be removed.
2. Crowd gates with a horizontal bar across the bottom should not be so close to the ground that a person who falls or is knocked over would get pinned against the floor.
3. Controls or emergency releases for gates in the milking parlor itself should be located so that a person inadvertently pinned in the gate can reach them.

4. People working around gates powerful enough to seriously injure or kill should not be alone, so that assistance can be given if someone does become trapped.
5. Always shut off and lock out all power (electrical, pneumatic, or hydraulic) prior to any cleaning, maintenance, or service activities, to prevent crushing, entanglement, or 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 pneumatic or hydraulic energy which could cause movement of the gate. (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. Block or lock in place gates that can drop down or potentially move even after the power has been turned off, due to gravity or some other external force. Service procedures could inadvertently result in removing or deactivating a support or restraint and cause unexpected movement.
7. Proper training, and periodic retraining and review, are necessary for all people working with or near this equipment, including those who may be passing through or otherwise have incidental contact. Everyone working in or near the milking parlor should know how to shut off any piece of parlor equipment, including gates. 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.





CZ = CRUSH ZONE BETWEEN
CROWD GATE AND BACK WALL

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:

FACE Program
WI Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Public Health
P.O. Box 2659
Madison WI 53701-2659