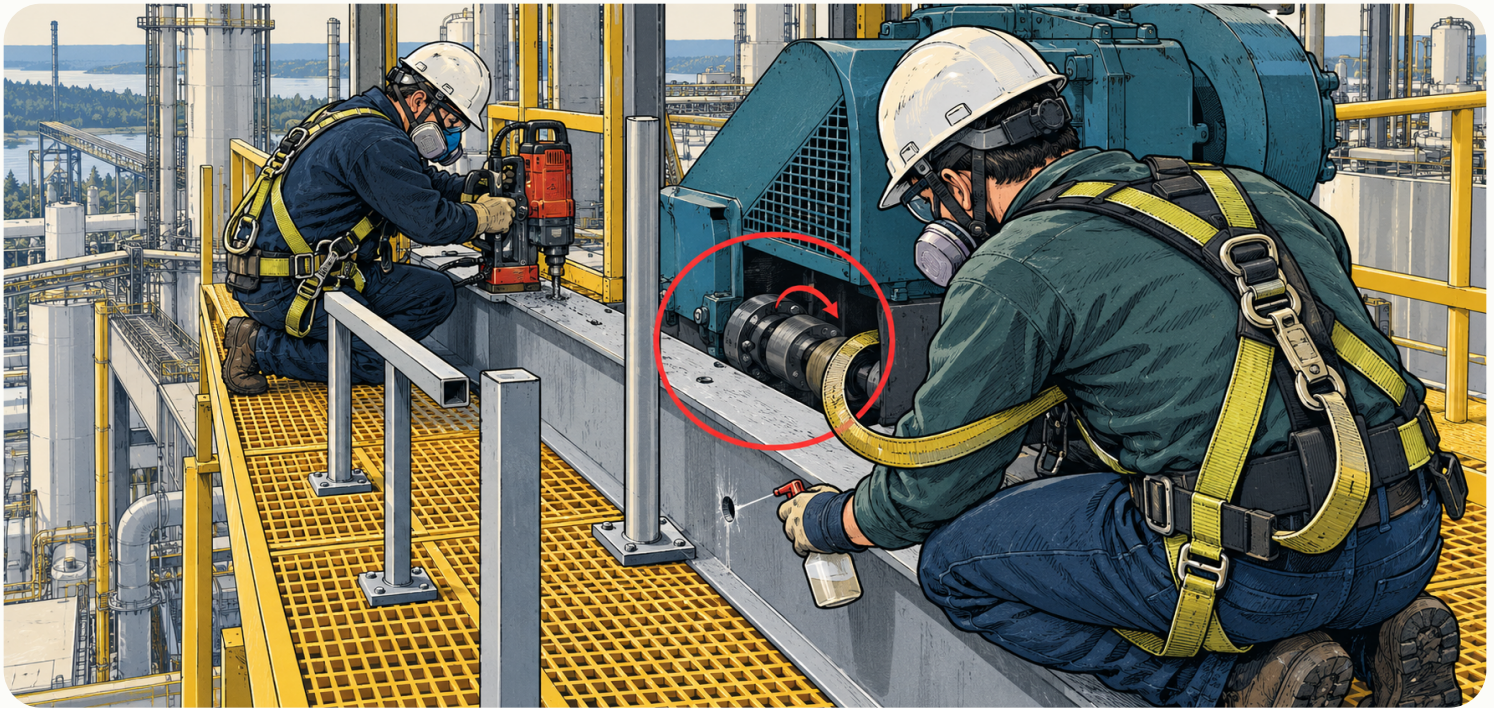


Worker Caught in Rotating Drive

Incident Date: November 23, 2015 / Location: Hinton, AB / Industry: Industrial Maintenance



AI Teaching Illustration. Highlights the loose-lanyard entanglement hazard. Machinery geometry, worker positions and platform layout are schematic.

What Happened

Two workers were installing handrails on a pulp-mill tower beside a rake drive. During planning, the supervisor and project manager decided lockout was unnecessary because the coupling turned slowly. The work area was narrow, with awkward footing beside the exposed moving equipment.

One worker drilled mounting holes while the other crouched nearby to lubricate the bit. Both wore harnesses, but their lanyards were looped under their arms rather than attached to anchors. A lanyard caught in the rotating coupling and pulled its wearer into the machinery. The worker was fatally injured.

Why This Became Fatal

Slow rotation still had enough force to pull a worker into the drive. The exposed coupling remained energized within reach of the task. A loose lanyard became an entanglement path. The machine's monitoring switch stopped it only after the worker was caught; that was too late to prevent harm.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Slow-moving equipment still requires effective control of hazardous energy.



1 Isolate and Verify

Lock out all hazardous energy; verify safe isolation.

2 Guard Moving Parts

Prevent access to couplings and other rotating parts.

3 Provide Safe Access

Use suitable work platforms and fall protection; control loose straps.

AI Teaching Illustration. Verify isolation; locks alone do not prove zero energy. Access and guarding require site-specific design. **LSR links:** Energy Isolation; Working at Height.

Investigation Outcome

On December 3, 2018, **Winfield Industrial Sales pleaded guilty** to a fall-protection offence. It received a **\$5,000 fine including surcharge plus a \$295,000 creative sentence** for industry education through the Alberta Forest Products Association. Other Winfield charges and all charges against West Fraser Mills were withdrawn. Total: \$300,000.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Where do we work beside equipment that turns slowly but can still pull us in?
- 2 Who verifies isolation when contractors and the host employer share a work area?
- 3 Could our lanyards, clothing or tools reach moving parts from the work position?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse a task if slow movement was being treated as harmless?

SAFETY COMES FIRST.

Your Right to Refuse – Alberta. You may refuse work you reasonably believe presents an undue hazard: a serious and immediate threat. Promptly report the refusal and reasons to your employer or supervisor. They must investigate. Contact Alberta OHS if unresolved. Take reasonable care not to endanger others. You are protected from reprisal.

Sources: [Alberta OHS investigation F-OHS-097772-3A56D](#), pp. 2, 6-9, 14-16; summary completed December 4, 2018. [Alberta conviction record](#), [Alberta refusal guidance](#).

Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.

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