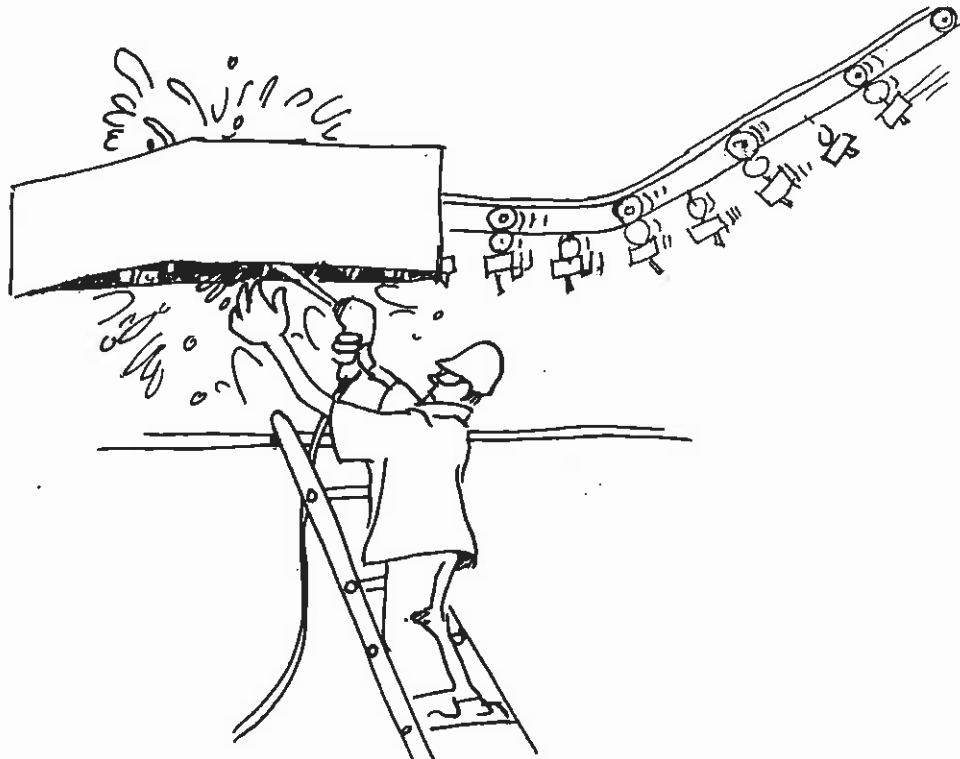


Lockout/Tagout and Machine Hazards in the Sanitation Shift

There are many hazards for sanitation workers in meatpacking, poultry, and food processing plants. Here are some:

- Working around or on unguarded machines**
- Wearing bulky personal protective equipment which can get caught in unguarded or moving machines.**



- Cleaning machines while they are left running.**

-Working alone late at night

-Machines that are not properly locked or tagged out.



-Lack of proper training.



Exposure to these risks can result in serious injury and death. Sanitation workers have suffered broken bones, crushed body parts, and amputation because they work around these and other dangerous conditions.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, says that machines must be guarded to protect the operator of the machine and other employees. If a worker can possibly come into contact with any moving part of a machine-such as a blade sprocket, chain, rotating shaft or shaft end, or can be injured by a flying part, there must be a guard in that machine. This is required by OSHA's Machine Guarding Standard, 1910.212

This standard is required for ANY worker, including sanitation workers or workers who clean the machinery.

OSHA also regulated the lockout/tagout of machinery and equipment in OSHA Standard 1910.147. The standard requires that before such activities as maintenance, repair, cleaning, etc, the piece of equipment or machinery must be turned off and disconnected from the power or energy sources. In addition, a lock or other such energy-isolating device must be applied to the circuit breaker, disconnect switch or line valve as outlined in the standard.

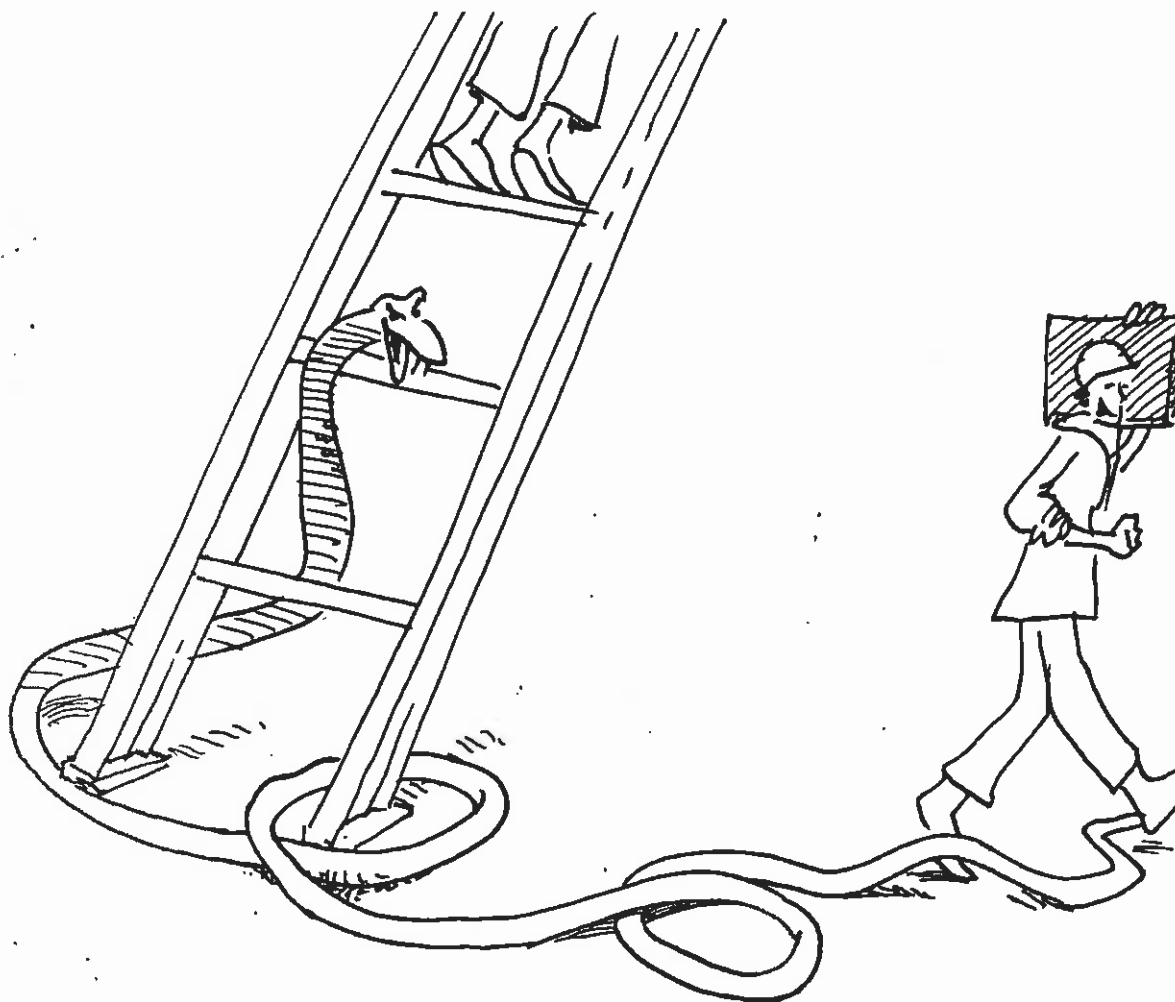
OSHA required proper training in:

How to apply lockout/tagout procedures

Use of PPE and limitations of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)



TRAINING MUST BE IN A LANGUAGE THE WORKERS CAN UNDERSTAND!!



-Ladders and hoses can tangle and cause injuries

Workers have several tools that can be used to make the workplace safer. The most powerful tool that workers have is their union and the members coming together to work on making the workplace safer. Participating in a safety and health committee, both a union only committee and a joint labor committee can identify the hazards facing sanitation workers and identify how to eliminate the hazards so that workers can work in safer conditions.

Workers in a union workplace also have their union contract. Many unions have included health and safety language in their collective bargaining agreements. This is a strong tool for addressing and fixing workplace safety and health issues.

UFCW Occupational Safety and Health Office - 1775 K St. NW, Washington DC, 20006 - (202) 223-3111

This material was produced under grant number SH 16628-07-SH8 from the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. It does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.