

Shocking Safety Lapse: Worker Loses Arm, Company Fined \$253K!

Description

A major copper manufacturer in Texas has been cited for serious safety failures after a worker's arm was partially amputated during a routine task.

The U.S. Department of Labor's investigation found that Hailiang Copper Texas had failed to install necessary machine guards and safety locks, leading to the worker's injury in March 2024. The worker's hand was caught between a conveyor belt and a rack holding copper coils as they attempted to clear debris.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued 24 serious safety violations against the company, with fines totalling \$253,750. Inspectors discovered a range of failings, including a lack of energy control procedures, poorly marked crane tags, and a missing hazard communication program. Workers were also found to be exposed to heat hazards without proper protective equipment.

Monica Camacho, OSHA's Area Director in Austin, highlighted that the lack of machine guarding is a frequent and dangerous issue across manufacturing. "Employers must ensure machines are properly guarded to prevent life-changing injuries," she said. Camacho also noted that companies should provide training in languages all employees can understand.

Hailiang Copper Texas Inc., a subsidiary of China's Hailiang Group, now has 15 days to comply, contest, or request an informal meeting with OSHA over the findings.

CATEGORY

1. Texas

POST TAG

1. Communication Skills
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3. Hazard Communication
4. Lock Out/Tag Out (LOTO)
5. Machine Guarding
6. Monica Camacho (OSHA)
7. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

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