

## **Ames Blue Alert- ISU Amputation Incident**

From: Shawn Nelson  
Date: February 17, 2004  
Subject: Lessons Learned from ISU Amputation Incident

Recently, an accident involving an Iowa State University employee at one of the University machine shops resulted in the loss of a fingertip. The injury occurred when the employee inserted the spring loaded T-Bar (used to adjust the jaws of the lathe chuck) before the chuck had completely stopped rotating and pinched a finger between the lathe bed and the T-Bar. The employee had received training in the form of a shop orientation. No formal documentation of training was evident.

As a result of the injury, the Iowa Occupation Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) performed an investigation. There were two serious citations issued for not providing the appropriate training and oversight for the equipment and not properly guarding the equipment. Fines were assessed to the department involved.

Lessons Learned include the following:

- Ensure personnel using equipment are trained for the hazards to which they are exposed.
- Ensure task specific training is current and documented.
- Ensure equipment guards are in place.
- Periodically observe employee performance to ensure that proper protocol and procedures are being followed.

If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact Shawn Nelson at 294-9769 or at [nelsons@ameslab.gov](mailto:nelsons@ameslab.gov).