

# 1993 HAZARD ALERT



WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION  
BOARD  
OF BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

POSTER # Hazard Alert 93-04

## Rotating shafts and loose material — a deadly mix!

A machinist was seriously injured while polishing a stock surface with an emery cloth. He was wearing gloves and using a loose, unsupported strip of emery cloth to do the polishing. Without warning the emery cloth wrapped around the shaft, dragging the machinist's left glove-hand into the nip point. He suffered the loss of three fingers and multiple wrist fractures.



**SAFE  
WORK  
PRACTICE**

### CORRECTIVE ACTION:

1. When using an emery cloth or any other polishing device around rotating shafts, you must ensure that the cloth is supported by the proper tool.
2. Do not wear gloves, loose clothing or other loose articles (i.e. jewellery) when working around rotating shafts.
3. Use proper tools when polishing or servicing rotating equipment.

# STOP

## Workplace "Jewellery" Related Accidents and Injuries

### Workplace No Jewellery Program:

**PHASE 1 - LeClasp Worker JEWELLERY HOLDER:**  
Handles the essentials of the safety initiative ... equipping employees with a Jewellery holding device where they can attach rings, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, watches, body piercings, etc. BEFORE walking in the place of work.



Item # 1250 - LeClasp Worker JEWELLERY HOLDER



Item # 1350/351/354 - LeClasp Medical Alert KEY HOLDER

**PHASE 2 - LeClasp Medical Alert KEY HOLDER**  
Equips workers wearing Medical Alert Identification Jewellery (bracelets, necklaces) with a "non-dangling" substitute (backup, alternative) product that can SAFELY be carried & KEPT ON THEIR PERSON at all times when working in the vicinity of heavy machinery, kitchens, conveyers, tools, vehicles, etc.

**SAFETY FIRST REMOVE VISITOR AND ATTACH YOUR JEWELLERY HERE!**

**SAFETY FIRST VISITOR JEWELLERY HOLDER**

**SAFETY FIRST STUDENT JEWELLERY HOLDER**

**SAFETY FIRST PATIENT JEWELLERY HOLDER**

**SAFETY FIRST SOLDIER JEWELLERY HOLDER**

**SAFETY FIRST RECRUIT JEWELLERY HOLDER**

Workplace Jewellery Holders come decorated on the FRONT side with the choice of six Safety First messages.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

### The Problem

- Today men and women are putting on more jewellery — from a traditional watch, bracelet(s), necklace(s) and rings to trendy body piercings to beautify the nose, lip, belly button and other body parts.
- Jewellery related accidents and injuries can happen when dangling necklace, jewellery and similar items worn by workers get caught in or get stuck against objects, equipment and moving parts of machinery.
- Hand lacerations, sprained, crushed or broken fingers, arm fractures, ear scars from headgear, etc. are typical jewellery caused injuries.

### Our Solution

- Our patented LeClasp™ SAFETY JEWELLERY HOLDER can "clasp" up to 95% of all popular Jewellery. A simple squeeze on the thumb pads and voila, a worker's irreplaceable personal possessions are kept safe, secure and protected — ready for safekeeping inside a locker, pocket or lunch box.

### Benefits

- LeClasp™ can help raise awareness to the hazards of Jewellery and encourage safety habits at the workplace
- LeClasp™ can help prevent Jewellery related contact with objects, equipment and moving parts of machinery accidents
- LeClasp™ can help protect "high risk" new hires, young trainees & visitors to facilities from Jewellery related injuries
- Cost as low as \$6.80 per worker - Payback achieved on average after averting 2.3 jewellery related lost-time claims.

For additional information, visit [www.leclasp.com](http://www.leclasp.com)

## Workplace No Jewellery Program QUICKIE VIRTUAL PROPOSAL:

### LeClasp No Jewellery Program (Phase 1 and 2)

**PHASE 1 -** Handles the essentials of the safety initiative ... equipping employees with a Jewellery holding device where they can attach rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, watches and piercings BEFORE walking in the place of work.

Item # 1250 - LeClasp Workplace JEWELLERY Holder comes Identified on the FRONT Side with YOUR choice of Safety First message (1A - 11D)

MSG #	SAFETY FIRST REMOVE VISITOR AND ATTACH YOUR JEWELLERY HERE!	SAFETY FIRST VISITOR JEWELLERY HOLDER	SAFETY FIRST STUDENT JEWELLERY HOLDER	SAFETY FIRST SOLDIER JEWELLERY HOLDER	SAFETY FIRST RECRUIT JEWELLERY HOLDER	SECURE IT! AMBITIOUS RETIREES ET AL ACCORDING TO THE BOOKS!
1	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	11a
	SAFETY FIRST DOCTOR JEWELLERY HOLDER	SAFETY FIRST PHYSICIAN JEWELLERY HOLDER	SAFETY FIRST NURSE JEWELLERY HOLDER	SAFETY FIRST PATIENT JEWELLERY HOLDER	SAFETY FIRST ASSOCIATE JEWELLERY HOLDER	Recommended one (1) per worker

Item # 1252 - Extra Organization Logo and Safety Slogan on the BACK Side

YOUR LOGO HERE! SAFETY 360- OR SAFETY YOUR LOGO HERE! SAFETY 365 YOUR LOGO HERE! SAFETY AT HOME & WORK YOUR LOGO HERE! SAFETY 24/7 YOUR LOGO HERE! Together, we will make the difference!

Your Safety Slogan Here!

Now Available for Sports Teams, Churches and Other Organizations too!



**PHASE 2 -** Equips workers who wear Medical Alert Identification (ID) Jewellery with a "non-dangling" SUBSTITUTE that can be worn safely and kept on their person at all times in the workplace.

Item # 1350 - LeClasp KEY HOLDER comes Identified on the front and back sides with worker emergency Medical Alert ID information (50A - 50D)

SYMBOL #	MEDICAL ALERT DIALYSIS	MEDICAL ALERT DIABETES	MEDICAL ALERT SEIZURES	MEDICAL ALERT ALLERGIES	MEDICAL ALERT PENICILLIN	MEDICAL ALERT INSULIN	MEDICAL ALERT EPI PEN
51A	52D	53D	54C	55A	55C		

Item # 352 - For more than two (2) conditions, allergies and prescribed meds, we recommend the LeClasp KEY HOLDER Identified with a Generic "See Wallet Card" Symbol (59A) on the front side and, comes with a Free Emergency Contact and Medical Information Wallet Card that workers fill in themselves.

55D



Emergency Medical Card (Carry, Portable, Affordable)

Name (Name & Title or Birth (for assistance))

Address (Home or Business)

Phone (Home or Business)

Emergency contact (Give name & telephone or cell telephone)

1. Physician (Name, Specialty, Hospital, etc.)

2. Family (Name, Relationship, Home, Work, Cell, etc.)

3. Other (Name, Relationship, Home, Work, Cell, etc.)

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59A

Page 4





# This Little Piggy...

**SFC DAVID ALAN MELANCON**  
3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division  
Fort Hood, TX



**H**ave you ever noticed most accidents happen when you least expect them? Well, there I was, just coming in from a field training exercise (FTX) and about to perform a simple task when an accident happened to me. I certainly wasn't expecting to wind up in the hospital that January day. I'm a Bradley systems maintainer and maintenance platoon sergeant for a forward-support company. We'd just completed the FTX in preparation for a deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center and, after that, possibly Iraq. We were tired after spending 3 weeks in the field, but it was almost over—all we had left to do was clean our vehicles. At about 1700, the last of the vehicles were staged at the wash rack, so we went to work. Everything about this day was relatively normal, with one notable exception: that morning, I'd taken my wedding ring off my dog tags and slipped it back on my left-hand ring finger. I figured since our

training was over, wearing my ring was no big deal. I say this is notable because I always wear my ring around my dog tags when I'm on duty, especially in the motor pool or in the field. I'd spent a year in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, and the only times I put on my ring were when I left for R & R leave and when my unit redeployed home. That system worked well, and thankfully I came home not only alive but with all 10 fingers! I needed to get my wet-weather gear, which was in a shelter on the back of an LMTV trailer. I climbed on the trailer, got my things, and grabbed the right side rail for balance as I prepared to climb back down. Unfortunately, my foot slipped as I stepped on the lower bumper, and I began to fall. My hand slid down the rail as I moved toward the ground, and my ring caught in one of the U-shaped grooves used for securing canvas covers on the trailer. I was horrified as I looked at my finger. The skin and most of

the tissue on my ring finger was completely gone, and the bone from the first joint just above my fingernail was missing. I called out to the other guys and said, among other choice words, "Hey, get a medic, get the aid bag—I've lost my finger!" Needless to say, I was in a lot of pain. Another Soldier got a combat lifesaver bag and pulled out a pressure bandage, which I wrapped around what was left of my finger. The commanding officer dialed 911 and had a pickup truck brought off the roadway so I could sit down and take off my helmet, weapon, and vest. We were only about 4 minutes from main post, so the ambulance arrived fairly quickly and took me to the emergency room at Darnell Army Community Hospital. The doctors there told me the damage to my finger was so extensive they didn't know if any attempted repair would work. The tissue, nerves, and vessels were torn horizontally, and reattaching my finger would require 8 to 10

hours of surgery with no guarantee of success. In fact, there was only a 20-percent chance my finger wouldn't have to be amputated even with surgery due to the nerve and vessel damage, which reduced blood circulation in the injury to zero. I faced a tough decision. The doctors told me my best course of action would be amputation because I would have a good chance of full recovery after rehabilitation. They let me decide, however, and after talking with my wife, I gave the doctors permission to amputate. They performed surgery that night, and my finger was amputated to the first joint—ironically, at the same place my wedding ring had rested just that morning.

It's been about 2 months since the accident, and I recently started rehab. I still feel a lot of pain, not just in my hand but all the way up my arm. The doctors explained some of the ligaments and tendons in my arm were pulled during the accident, and I'll experience phantom pain the rest of my life. I've lost about half the gripping power in my hand, which isn't good since I'm left-handed. I'll have to learn how to

write and type again, but I can shoot right-handed—a definite plus for a Soldier. My long-term prognosis is pretty good, though; the doctors tell me that after about 4 months of occupational therapy I should be back to normal. I share this story in the hope I'll open another Soldier's eyes and prevent them from making the same mistake. The doctors predict I'll be able to deploy back to theater with my unit later this year, but I could just as easily have lost my career that winter afternoon. Believe me, I'll do everything in my power to make sure I deploy with the Soldiers I've trained because I know they need me. I think it'll be a morale booster if my Soldiers can look at me and say, "If he lost a finger and is still here with us, we can do anything." I'll be wearing my wedding ring on my right hand from now on, but I promise you this: I'll take it off whenever I put my uniform

on, no matter what's planned that day. You never know what might happen. I survived a year in Iraq unharmed only to come home and lose my finger because I was tired and wasn't thinking straight. Stay alert and realize even the simplest of tasks can hurt you in a big way. If it can happen to me, it can happen to you too!

**Giving the Finger**  
This soldier injured his pinky finger while serving in Iraq during the first year of conflict. The injury itself isn't very remarkable and he made a full recovery, but notice the ring next to the injured finger. It's never safe to wear rings or other jewelry in a field or combat environment. If the ring gets caught on something, you risk either a degloving injury (i.e., all the skin peeled off) or total amputation. Both injuries hurt a lot, so keep your ring in a safe place—not on your hand—when you're on duty.  
*Special thanks to LTC Roman Blynsky, MD, who submitted this photo from his time with the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq.*



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COUNTERMASURE **04/06** <https://cnc.army.mil>

**A Finger or a Ring?  
The choice is Yours.**



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