Case Study 7016

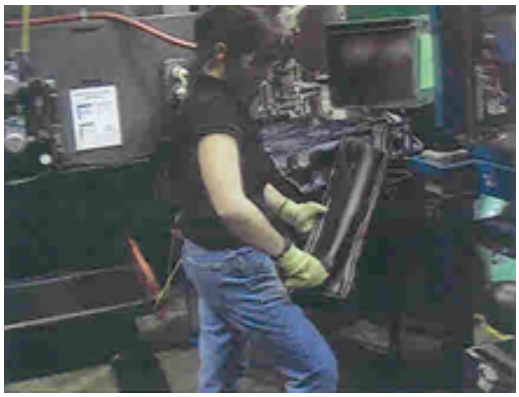
Intervention key words
Deflash presses

Industry
Manufacturing

Risk factors
Lacerations

Situation

For this manufacturer of automotive parts, the process of deflashing parts has resulted in a significant number of injuries. This process can involve removing the outer flash, cutting the components to length, drilling, reaming, trimming off interior or exterior debris, or flaming rough edges. Using the razor knives to remove the excess flash requires significant force and puts the employee at a high risk for cuts.



Solution

To resolve the safety issues resulting from the manual deflashing, the employer purchases three deflash presses. These machines automate the process, so employees do not have to use knives to cut excess flash. The deflash presses automatically stamps the edge flashing off. This eliminates the chance of an employee being cut by a razor knife. The total cost of implementing these safety devices was $50,000.

Results

- The incident rate (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 3.64 the two years prior to the intervention to 0.0 during the two years following, a 100-percent improvement.
- Using National Safety Council's data on the average cost of a claim of $19,382, the return on investment was 1.03 years.
- The scrap percentages decreased with the implementation of these machines, meaning the company is wasting less.
- Worker efficiency and productivity also increased because of the new devices.