



CNC Lathe Safety

What happened?

A machinist died when he was struck by a 40-pound pump rotor he was turning in a vertical CNC metal lathe. The rotor was a different size than others he had worked on and the chuck jaws were not properly extended to secure it. While he was standing in front of the machine's Lexan viewing window the rotor suddenly dislodged from the chuck jaws, broke through the window, and struck him in chest. The force of the blow knocked him back 27 feet off the work platform and onto a concrete floor.

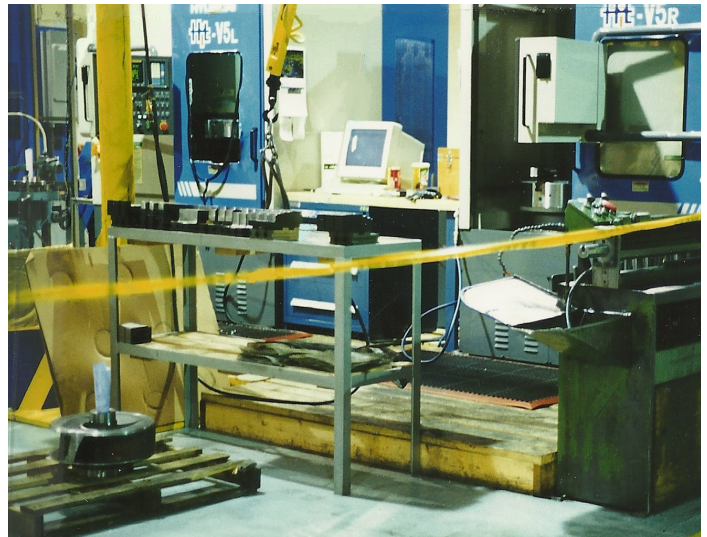
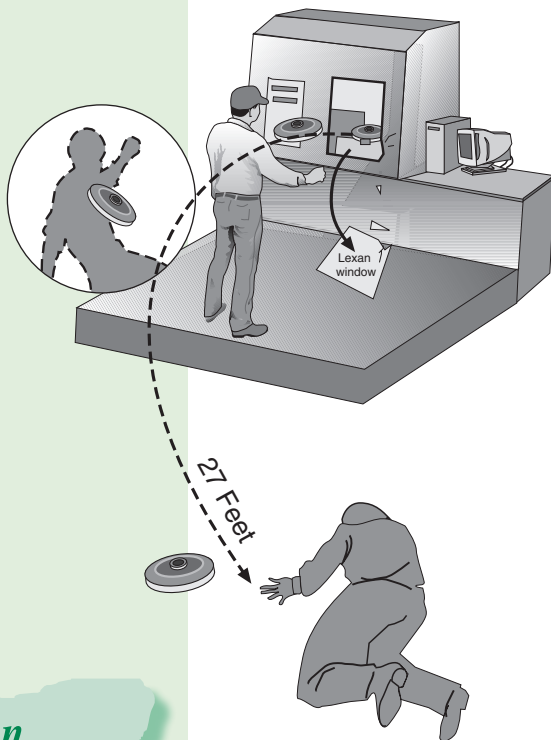


Photo of the accident site: The CNC lathe is in the upper left.

How to prevent similar injuries

Ensure that the parts being machined are the appropriate size so that they engage properly with the chuck and the cutting tool.

Remember

Lexan windows are not guards. Do not rely on them to protect you if a part ejects from the chuck.

For more information:

- CNC Turning Machines: Controlling Risks from Ejected Parts ([HSE Engineering Information Sheet #33](#))
- Potential Hazards Associated with the Use of Replacement Materials for Machine Guarding ([OSHA Hazard Information Bulletin 00-06-23](#))

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