

## TAILGATE – HAZARDS OF JEWELRY WHEN PERFORMING CERTAIN TASKS

People wear jewelry for a lot of different reasons. Sometimes they wear it for a fashion statement. Sometimes it has religious or sentimental value. By far, the most common piece of jewelry that is worn is a wedding ring. Because wedding rings are such meaningful pieces of jewelry, people will oftentimes resist taking them off.

However, the potentially severe consequences of wearing jewelry (including metal watches and chains) while performing certain tasks at work and at home should give everyone pause.

### MACHINERY RELATED INJURIES

- Dangling jewelry, or jewelry with protrusions may catch on components and can pull the wearer into moving parts on machinery. Should jewelry catch on an operating control such as a control lever, the jewelry could start machinery, creating danger to others as well as the wearer.

### ELECTROCUTION

- An electrocution risk exists when jewelry made of conductive metal is worn around live current.

### BURNS

- Metal jewelry can transfer heat to skin, resulting in a burn.

### RING AVULSION

- Finger avulsion (commonly called de-gloving) can be caused fairly easily by performing simple work related or household tasks such as descending a ladder or having the ring get caught on a nail or other protrusion while descending or tripping.



The good news is that jewelry can be removed and put back on at the will of the owner. The bad news is that it involves constant awareness and conscious decisions. The smart thing to do in most departments at Peterson (particularly service departments) is to not wear jewelry during work hours.

**The question everyone should ask themselves is, ‘would I rather rely on luck or on smart decisions’?**