

SONOCO *Near Miss!*



Date: December 14, 2020

Activity: Proper Storage of Frozen Goods

What Happened:

A Steward went into the walk-in freezer to get a frozen, bone-in ham to thaw for a meal. He found it on the top shelf of the freezer. As he reached to get it, he lost his grip on the ham and it fell off the shelf onto his foot.

However, he was in his correct uniform and wearing safety shoes. The ham struck the toe of his safety shoe and he suffered no injury. Pro tip: things like this are why we require safety shoes.

Why it Happened:

- Incorrect location of the ham
- Improper storage practices

Typical Hazards:

- Personal injury from falling object

Corrective Actions:

At the evening toolbox safety meeting, this was the topic to make everyone aware of the danger of heavy items being stored on the top shelf of any storage area – not just the freezer.

The freezer was rearranged so that lighter items were at the top. Bread, for example, was placed on the topmost shelf.

All hands were involved in the process so that they could offer input on needed change in all storage areas.

As a result, the pantry was also rearranged so that cereal and paper supplies were on the topmost shelves.

