

# SONOCO *Near Miss!*



Date: October 1, 2020 (Redistributed June 29, 2023)

Activity: Operating a Food Grinder

## What Happened:

One of our team went out on deck with food waste from the evening meal. He was in PPE including safety goggles and gloves and was loading the waste into the waste food grinder. Once loaded, he turned it on, and it began grinding the waste.

A small piece of bone was ejected from the spinning hopper and it struck the employee's goggles. It could have been worse. For instance, had he not been wearing any goggles at all, he could have sustained an eye injury. Or had it struck his face he could have been badly cut.

## Why it Happened:

So, what were some contributing factors? As you can see from the photo (taken by our team member himself and edited by us to remove location ID), he failed to cover the unit as it was grinding, which allowed it to eject food waste.

## Typical Hazards/Causes:

- Lack of proper PPE
- Not covering the hopper
- Not following manufacturer's recommended operating procedures

Some food grinding units require that they be open to allow water flow into the hopper. Some don't. Where they DO, they pose a special risk.

## Corrective Actions:

We Consider wearing a face shield to be a Best Practice in all circumstances.

**If your location does not have a face shield, please contact our Safety Department and we will arrange to provide one for your location.**

