

## Bypassing Safety Guards/Features

**Incident Description:** On 10/30/2019 a Saddle Creek Associate was observed clearing a jam from the inside of the ARPAC machine. When clearing these jams, it is necessary for Associates to open a plexiglass guard to gain access to the jam. When opened, several internal mechanical moving parts are exposed.

The manufacturer, to ensure the safety of the operator, has installed an “automatic shutoff” feature that is triggered when these plexiglass guards are opened, which is controlled by a magnet. When this magnetic shutoff feature is engaged, the machine loses all power until the plexiglass guard is put back in place.

The associate clearing the jam, when opening the plexiglass guard and triggering the magnetic shutoff feature, was placing a separate independent magnet on the ARPAC machine to “fool” it into believing the plexiglass guard was in still in place.

This action allows the Associates to place their extremities into actively moving mechanical parts that could result in loss of life or limb.



**Root Cause:** Insufficient/Inadequate training of Saddle Creek Associate and Supervisor

### **Lessons to be learned:**

- Saddle Creek will never instruct or allow associates to bypass any types of safety devices/functions that are affixed to mechanized equipment, no matter the reason!
- If you observe someone bypassing a safety devices/functions, report it to your supervisor immediately