



## CASE V

A warehouse employee was in the act of removing a part from the top of a storage bin. To reach it, she climbed on a wooden container instead of getting a ladder available for this purpose.

While standing on the edge of the container, it began to tip. The employee, trying to check her fall, grasped for the top of the bin with her left hand. As she did so, the ring she wore on her ring finger became caught on a bolt end, damaging the finger so badly that it had to be amputated.

What could have been done to prevent this incident or similar incidents?

### Guide and Background Information for Case V

If the question is raised, there were no rules in this company prohibiting the wearing of jewelry at work.

Following are other pertinent facts:

- The bins contained parts that were not in great demand.
- There was only one ladder in the storage area, which was large and contained three aisles.
- The ladder, at the time of the incident, was not in the aisle in which the employee was injured.

### Possible Solutions for Case V

1. A rule prohibiting the wearing of jewelry at work could be instituted. Better training on the hazards of wearing rings would help.
2. Availability of a ladder in each aisle would make one always handy and thus more likely to be used.
3. Better housekeeping would help because the wooden container the employee stood on was not in its proper place.
4. The use of posters also would help with the problem.

### Summary

Point out the hazards of wearing rings at work. Stress the need for education on the subject because it may be difficult to enforce a rule against wearing rings because of certain religious beliefs.