



CONLIN CASE STUDY:

**Mary Alice Conlin - Application Case Study**

The accident occurred on a Walsh 55-ton full-revolution mechanical power press at Tool and Die, Inc. Mary Alice Conlin, 37 years old, lost three fingers and part of her thumb on the right hand when she reached into the press to extract a part.

The maintenance man did not secure the shield a week before the injury event as he was in a hurry to get to another machine breakdown. Besides, he needed a part to fix this press and had to wait for the part to be ordered.

The press was foot pedal operated with a point of operation guard. The foot pedal was not guarded. The guard had a flip-up plexi-glass shield on the front that was hinged, not fixed in place (secured). The employee (Mary Alice) was removing a piece of metal that was stuck in the die. The guard was flipped open. While removing the scrap part, she accidentally stepped on the foot pedal. The employee lost 3 fingers and part of her thumb on the right hand. She had been a press operator for 3 days.

At approximately 9:00 a.m. on October 5, 2015, employee #2 heard Mary Alice scream and ran to her while shouting for help. Employee #3, the designated first aider, heard the scream. He grabbed his first aid kit and ran to Mary Alice to render first aid treatment. At approximately 9:05 a.m., employee #2 ran to the supervisor's office and the rescue squad was called. Approximately 10 minutes later, the rescue squad arrived and rendered treatment to stabilize Mary Alice who appeared to be in shock. The rescue squad transported Mary Alice to the emergency room at 9:30 a.m.



CONLIN CASE STUDY: SKETCH OF THE SCENE -

Date:	10/4/2005	
SUBJECT:	Incident Investigation	
Item	Description of Discussion	Action
	<p data-bbox="682 451 974 588">TOOLE DIE, INC. 9:00 AM 10/4/2005</p> <p data-bbox="389 504 487 588">Supv. off</p> <p data-bbox="503 714 779 819">super visor x</p> <p data-bbox="438 882 617 987">First Aid kit</p> <p data-bbox="389 1155 487 1207">ee#3</p> <p data-bbox="389 1281 552 1407">Maint shop</p> <p data-bbox="747 1081 860 1123">ee#2</p> <p data-bbox="698 1207 876 1270">Toledo #7 80 Ton</p> <p data-bbox="714 1365 860 1407">Full Rev</p> <p data-bbox="909 987 1104 1134">Press Floor</p> <p data-bbox="1055 1354 1201 1396">55 Ton</p> <p data-bbox="1153 1081 1218 1123">Ph 3</p> <p data-bbox="1153 1165 1299 1270">Mary Conlin Location</p> <p data-bbox="958 1197 1039 1239">Ph 2</p> <p data-bbox="1323 1186 1396 1228">Ph 1</p> <p data-bbox="308 1564 698 1606">Ph = Photo Location</p>	



## Conlin - Case Study Interviews



### **MARY ALICE CONLIN**

This was my first week on the job working as a press operator, although I had been hired a month ago. I was very motivated working in this plant because jobs are hard to get and I have two children to support. I received a one-hour orientation when I was hired one month ago on company rules from the personnel department. I don't remember anything about safety in the orientation. This week, I was assigned to run a press and went to meet Paul, my new supervisor. He gave me a quick walk-around tour of the department. I was directed to place parts into the die, step on the pedal to start the press, remove the parts and check every 10<sup>th</sup> part against a sample to make sure they were okay. I was on piecework and the more parts I did, the more money I could make. Things went ok the first 2 days, but, the day of the accident, I guess I wanted to make a good impression and was busy making parts when one part jammed. I reached into the area to remove the jammed part. I accidentally stepped on the foot pedal and the press caught my hand. I screamed when I saw my hand. Then, I must have passed out, cause that's all I remember until I woke up in the hospital.

### **PAUL JOHNSON, THE SUPERVISOR**

Mary Alice was a new hire who had been assigned to my department as a press operator. This was her first week in my department. I had given her a tour of our department the first day and she was doing fine. I didn't have time to go through all the safety stuff, and besides, she had already completed safety orientation. I told her to be careful and use common sense. The day of the accident, I was busy working on some production problems. I don't know why she did not have the maintenance people lockout the equipment; I thought she had been trained on this. The next thing I know, Jerry is running into my office to tell me to call 911. I immediately called 911 and 10 minutes later the EMT's arrived and gave her first aid. They then took her to the hospital where she was admitted. I guess I'll have to get a new press operator.



### **TONY SMITH, THE MAINTENANCE MAN**

Sure, I removed the guard. I had to fix the press and the guard was in the way. I did not have a part and my boss had to order it. We had an emergency break-down in another department and I had to get there. I put the guard back, but I didn't have time to secure it. Everyone should know not to stick their hand in the press.





**Determine the Sequence of Events.** Consider: How did each step contribute to the incident? Then, ask “why” to get to a cause.

Event : \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_



**Exercise:** Fill out an incident investigation report with corrective actions for the Mary Conlin incident.



**Incident Investigation Report**

**Name of Employee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Job Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date/Time of Incident:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location of Incident** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Injury(ies).** (If no injury write “none” or “near miss”)

**Investigation Conducted by:**

Name:	Title:

**Provide a detailed description of the incident.** Include relevant events leading up to, during, or after the incident. Attach pages if needed.



**Root Causes:** What factors lead to this incident? Consider environmental factors. Work practices, work layout, training, supervision, and other potential causes. Attach pages if needed.

1.	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

**Recommended Corrective Actions:**

**Completed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**Reviewed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date



**Exercise/Discussion:** Based on what you have learned through investigating the Mary Conlin incident, what changes would you make to policies, procedures, and training programs that support the safety program?