State of New Jersey

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# PUBLIC EMPLOYER SAFETY ALERT #8

# COMMERCIAL TYPE AUTOMATIC CONVEYOR DISHWASHERS

## ATTENTION: PUBLIC EMPLOYERS

**SEPTEMBER 1997**

**THIS NOTICE IS BEING SENT AS A WARNING THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED DISHWASHERS MAY NOT HAVE SAFETY INTERLOCKS INSTALLED ON THE FRONT ACCESS DOOR OR DOORS.**

**THIS CONDITION WOULD ALLOW THE DISHWASHER TO OPERATE WITH THE ACCESS DOOR OR DOORS IN THE OPEN POSITION, EXPOSING EMPLOYEES TO SCALDING WATER SPRAY.**

**IF YOU HAVE THIS TYPE OF DISHWASHER, PLEASE HAVE IT INSPECTED AND INTERLOCKS INSTALLED AS NEEDED.**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (609) 292-7036**

**9/8/97**

A serious accident accurred at a South Jersey High School when a cafeteria worker was seriously burned.

The employee was trying to unjam a tray in the automatic conveyor dishwasher, when scalding hot water began spraying out burning more than 40 percent of the employee's body.

Newer dishwashers now have safety interlocks installed that prevent the dishwasher from operating while the access doors are open.

The dishwasher involved in the accident was a 20-year-old unit, and did not have safety interlocks installed.

The high school was cited with the following violation:

**CFR 1910.212 a 3(ii):** The point of operation of machines whose operation exposes an employee to injury, shall be guarded. The guarding device shall be conformity with any appropriate standards therefore, or, in the absence of applicable specific standards, shall be so designed and constructed as to prevent the operator from having any part of his body in the danger zone during the operating cycle.

Employers With Possible Exposure

School Districts
Colleges/Universities
Vocational/Technical Schools
Developmental Centers
State Prisons
County Jails
Nursing Homes
Large Administration Buildings
Veterans Homes

# MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All job related employee fatalities or in-patient hospitalizations must be reported immediately to the N.J. Department of Labor, Office of Public Employee's Safety.

The 24 hour call number is:

1-(800)-624-1644