

Safety Alert

Number: 26-16

Published: 16/10/2026

Subject: Serious Finger Injury During Fan Belt Intervention

What Happened / Narrative

During routine engine rounds, a crew member identified a defect on an Air Handling Unit (AHU) fan belt and attempted to intervene immediately.

Although the power supply had been isolated and the motor stopped, residual energy remained in the rotating system. The crew member attempted to manually slow the fan belt instead of allowing it to come to a complete stop, resulting in contact with moving components and a finger injury.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

- Residual energy was present and not fully recognised.
- Intervention was made before confirming a zero-energy state.
- Manual interaction with rotating components occurred.
- Companies' safe isolation principles and process was not fully applied.
- The situation was not adequately assessed, and the risks associated with a routine task were underestimated.

Lessons Learned

- Isolation alone does not guarantee safety — residual energy must be considered and verified before intervention.
- All rotating equipment must be fully stopped and confirmed safe before any contact — Never make manual adjustments and keep hands clear of moving or potentially moving parts.
- Any intervention, even during routine rounds, must follow a controlled process (RA / TBT).
- Companies' isolation process must be applied consistently, with clear communication and supervision when working on equipment.

Photographs / Supporting Information



Ask Yourself and Your Crew:

1. How do you confirm all energy (including residual energy) is fully released before intervening on equipment?
2. What would make you stop and reassess if you are unsure about the state of equipment during routine rounds?
3. How do you ensure you never place hands near moving or potentially moving parts — even when a defect is identified?

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