

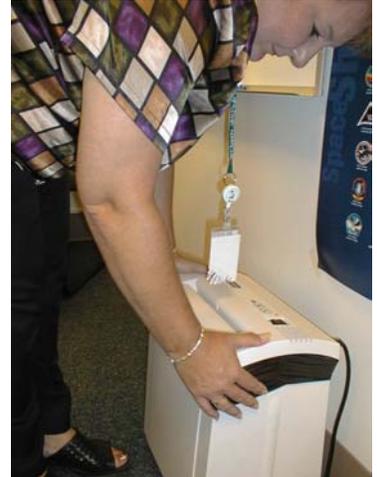
# MSFC Safety Bulletins

## MSFC Badge Reel Contributes to Close Call Incident

### What Happened?

An MSFC employee had a close call with a paper shredder, as she bent over the machine to shred documents. Hanging from her neck by an MSFC badge lanyard, the employee's **badge and other badge cards were caught by and pulled into the shredder blades!**

As the in-feed rollers continued to pull the badges deeper into the machine, the **break-away safety clasp on the lanyard did not release!** Luckily, the employee was able to reach the switch on the shredder, and deactivate the machine before any injury occurred.



### What Caused This?

Someone accidentally left the shredder turned on. The employee did not notice this as she prepared to use the machine. The shredder position required users to bend over the shredder intake, to operate the machine. To shorten her lanyard, the employee had tied a knot in the lanyard. This factor played no significant role in the incident. The employee had **attached a retractable badge reel between her badges and lanyard** (see photo). **As the badges were drawn into the shredder, the badge reel cord continued to unroll, rather than pulling on the lanyard itself. The lanyard's break-away safety clasp was not placed under enough tension to cause it to come apart, as designed.**

### What Should Be Done?

- Move the paper shredder to a table, to eliminate the necessity for personnel to bend over the top of the machine. This should reduce the chances of badges dangling close to the shredder intake area.
- All MSFC organizations should:
  - Verify that all badge lanyards used by MSFC personnel are equipped with the break-away safety clasp.
  - Review with all personnel the lessons learned from this incident, as listed below.
  - Inspect paper shredder locations, and modify as needed to keep badges away from shredder intakes.

### What Can We Learn?

- Be aware that **adding a retractable badge reel to your lanyard increases the amount of travel that will occur before the reel cord or break-away safety clasp will release under pressure.**
- In a similar incident, you might not be able to turn the machine off yourself. Call for help, but **be prepared to pull hard enough on the lanyard yourself to force the safety clasp to release – before it's too late!**
- Understand the risks of wearing badge lanyards and reels around machinery, and **take precautions to secure the badges against being caught in moving parts** (place them in your pocket, for example) before operating such equipment.
- **Any objects dangling from your neck can become caught in moving machinery.** This includes neckties, scarves, eyeglass holders, jewelry, and so on. Under the right circumstances, involving many types of machinery and equipment commonly found at MSFC, this can result in severe injury or death.