

Off With Their Finger Tips!

Another injury frequently reported to Markel is that of children whose fingers were caught in the hinged side of the door and were pinched, crushed, or even amputated when the door closed. The pressure exerted by the door at the hinge area can exceed 40 tons per square inch, which can easily damage a child's fingers.

You can reduce this type of injury by ensuring that the door closer is properly adjusted. Set the door closer to pause long enough for someone to get fingers, hands, and feet out of the way before the door slams. Make sure you don't set the door closer at too low a setting; if you do, there may not be enough power to close and latch the door. Should this occur, you would be in violation of fire protection and life safety codes.

There are products from a number of manufacturers (such as www.fingersafe.com) that can prevent children from getting their fingers caught in the hinge side of the door. Door hinge guards are an easily installed, inexpensive way to prevent injuries.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.