

# SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE  
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

<b>Number:</b>	SA0001
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Four-drawer filing cabinet falls on top of person</b>
<b>Date:(mth/yr)</b>	March 2005

**Incident:** (Brief facts only, do not include company name or location, insert picture if available)

A person was filing paperwork in the cabinet with both the top and third drawers open. Whilst crouching to reorganise the files, the person opened the bottom drawer. The weight of the three drawers made the cabinet fall forwards onto the person's shoulder and upper body pinning them to the floor.

- This picture demonstrates the potential dangers involved when working around filing cabinets.  
**Please note that in this example picture, the participant is using a significant amount of strength to stop the cabinets from tilting over.**



**Key Lessons:** (maximum of 3)

- Never open more than one filing cabinet drawer at any one time. Even two drawer cabinets can topple over onto you.
- Do not store heavy items on the top of cabinets.

**Recommendations:** (maximum of 3)

- Wherever possible, have cabinets fixed to a wall.
- When replacing old cabinets, consider purchasing "Anti-tilt" cabinets that do not allow you to open more than one drawer at a time.
- At the very least, affix signage to cabinets warning users not to open more than one drawer at a time eg. Sticker.

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