

## Safety First – E is also for ‘Sleeves’ (Gary Guenther)

In the S.A.F.E.R. acronym that woodturners *always* use before they turn on the lathe (every time, right?), the “E” technically stands for “Eye” and is meant to remind us to have our eye protection – typically a full face shield – both on our head and lowered over the face. But it can be extended to also take in a list of other things about your body, and how you’re dressed, that are important to remember. Some good examples are 1) **no loose sleeves** that could get wrapped up; 2) no long hair unbound; 3) no necklaces or rings; and 4) no earbuds with wires hanging down. You get the picture.

Indeed, much of the remainder of this article will be just pictures. As we well know, they are worth more than words. Be advised that the first six photos all happened within a virtual blink of an eye, in just over one second of time – one single tick of the clock.





At the last CAW Meeting, the demonstrator, Rudy Lopez, talked about a guy he knew who reached over the top of a spinning chuck whose jaws were extended beyond being flush with the body of the chuck. The protruding chuck jaws caught the dangling end of his short-sleeved shirt under his arm and pulled him in very fast and very hard. He couldn't reach either power switch, and his shirt was choking him. Luckily, his wife was present, and she hit the kill switch. If she hadn't been there the result would have been different. He now keeps the remains of that shirt hanging on the wall to remind him.

Again, repeat, no loose sleeves, no matter how long or short they may be; and don't reach across a spinning chuck under any circumstances.