Safety Tips for the Use of Flywheel in Physics Experiment

A flywheel can be used in experiments for the study of the rotational motion of a rigid body about a fixed axis. The usual procedure of the experiment consists of letting fall a weight coupled to the flywheel and counting the number of turns made by the wheel. To facilitate accurate counting, in some models of flywheel, a pointer is attached to its support and stretching across its front. This can be a source of potential hazard.

Through recklessness, a student might receive a finger cut. This is especially true during the preliminary run when students try to stop the wheel from rotation by pressing the rim of the wheel with their hands. It is suggested to "bury" the pointed end of the pointer into a rubber bung of suitable size, or to bandage the pointed end with sufficient adhesive tapes. In no circumstances students should stop the wheel by pressing the rim with fingers. Since the flywheel has great inertia, the fingers will likely be carried along thereby twisting the wrist joint and resulting in greater damage.