



Toolbox TALK



STRUCK-BY AND CAUGHT-IN/BETWEEN HAZARDS

Struck-by and caught-in/between events can be caused by a variety of hazards, including moving vehicles, falling objects, and unguarded machinery. However, these incidents are preventable. By taking steps to identify and avoid the hazards, you can help to prevent tragic accidents.

IDENTIFY STRUCK-BY HAZARDS

Commonly found at sites that have industrial-type activity, such as trucks, heavy equipment, power tool or equipment use, mezzanines, cranes, or catwalks, struck-by hazards are created by falling, moving, or flying objects. These items could be anything from a nut or a bolt to a bulldozer, including:

- Forklifts
- Telehandlers
- Excavators
- Dump trucks
- Aerial lifts
- Machinery
- Raised platforms
- Rooftop work.



IDENTIFY CAUGHT-IN/BETWEEN HAZARDS

According to the American Safety Council, the chance of being caught-in/between is high “when you are surrounded by heavy equipment or machinery.” The most common of these hazards are cave-in (trenching), caught-in (unguarded machinery), and caught-between (equipment and a fixed object).

PREVENTION IS KEY

Not only is it important to frequently inspect your facility or job site because new hazards can occur on a daily basis, but it is also crucial to be aware of your surroundings. For instance, while workers should stay a safe distance away from machinery or heavy equipment in use, they should also make every effort to avoid standing or walking in vehicle or equipment blind spots.

STRUCK-BY AND CAUGHT-IN/BETWEEN HAZARDS

Follow these tips to help mitigate the risk of struck-by and caught-in/between incidents:

- ▶ Complete training to recognize hazards and learn how to properly use equipment/machinery.
- ▶ Report all hazards immediately.
- ▶ Wear the correct personal protective equipment for the task.
- ▶ Barricade work zones. Set up controlled access zones when overhead work is being performed. When performing road work, set up traffic control zones according to the state's department of transportation code.
- ▶ Ensure doorways under work zones are locked or have signage.
- ▶ Use safety debris nets or tool lanyards when working from heights.
- ▶ Secure loose materials.
- ▶ Regularly inspect mobile equipment for defects.
- ▶ Ensure safety functions (horn, lights, backup alarm) are functioning on equipment.
- ▶ Follow safe operating procedures, like using safety functions, to ensure workers are clear before starting equipment.
- ▶ Properly signal and communicate with operators before proceeding in the proximity of functioning machinery or equipment.
- ▶ Stop at all doorways and aisles. Powered industrial trucks should sound horn before proceeding.
- ▶ Secure materials away from edges.
- ▶ Ensure loads are stable and properly secured to the lifting device or truck.
- ▶ Leave guards in place on tools or equipment.
- ▶ Use tools and equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ Follow lock-out/tag-out procedures.
- ▶ Cap rebar.
- ▶ Turn off vehicles before performing repairs or maintenance.
- ▶ Block wheels on vehicles to prevent movement.
- ▶ Lower or block blades on bulldozers or similar equipment when not in use and prior to performing work on them.

Date:

ATTENDANCE RECORD

SUPERVISOR:

CREW MEMBERS PRESENT:

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:
