

## TOOLBOX TALK

# Caught-In/Between Hazards

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Caught-in/between hazards are one of the 'Fatal Four' in construction. Workers are killed when caught in or compressed by equipment, objects, or collapsing materials. These incidents cause crushing injuries, amputations, and death — all preventable.

**50+**

Caught-in/between deaths per year

**#4**

In OSHA's Fatal Four causes of death

**100%**

These incidents are preventable

## 4 Types of Caught-In/Between Hazards

Recognize these four categories to protect yourself and your team:

**1**

### CAUGHT IN MACHINERY

Rotating parts, gears, rollers, or conveyors pulling in clothing, hair, or body parts.

**2**

### CAUGHT BETWEEN OBJECTS

Crushed between a vehicle and a wall, equipment and a fixed object, or two heavy objects.

**3**

### CAUGHT IN COLLAPSING MATERIALS

Trench cave-ins, collapsing walls, or unstable stacked materials falling on workers.

**4**

### CAUGHT IN UNGUARDED EQUIPMENT

Missing machine guards, exposed belts, chains, or moving parts without proper protection.

## Before You Start — Quick Checklist

- Are all machine guards in place and functioning properly?
- Has Lockout/Tagout been applied before maintenance or repair?
- Are workers wearing close-fitting clothing (no loose sleeves, jewelry, or ties)?
- Are trenches properly sloped, shored, or shielded if deeper than 5 feet?
- Is there safe clearance between moving equipment and fixed objects?
- Are stacked materials stable and properly secured against collapse?

## Equipment & Site Inspection — Before Every Shift

- Guards:** Verify all machine guards are installed and secure. Never operate with guards removed.
- LOTO:** Confirm Lockout/Tagout is applied before any maintenance, cleaning, or unjamming.
- Trenches:** Check sloping, shoring, or shielding. Inspect after rain, vibration, or any disturbance.
- Clothing:** No loose clothing, dangling jewelry, long hair untied, or gloves near rotating parts.
- Clearance:** Maintain safe distance between moving equipment and walls, posts, or other objects.
- Stacking:** Verify materials are stacked properly, secured, and not leaning or at risk of collapse.

### Common Mistakes That Kill

- ✗ Removing machine guards to speed up work — guards exist to keep you alive
- ✗ Reaching into running machinery to clear a jam — always shut down and LOTO first
- ✗ Entering an unprotected trench — cave-ins can happen in seconds without warning
- ✗ Standing between a backing vehicle and a fixed object — you can be crushed instantly
- ✗ Wearing loose clothing or jewelry near rotating equipment — it takes less than a second

### Safety Tips to Remember

- ✓ Never remove or bypass machine guards — if a guard is missing, stop and report it
- ✓ Always Lockout/Tagout before reaching into any machine — no exceptions
- ✓ Never enter a trench deeper than 5 feet without cave-in protection
- ✓ Keep your body clear of pinch points — know where crushing hazards exist
- ✓ Wear close-fitting clothes — tie back long hair, remove jewelry near machines

## Discussion Questions for Your Team

1. What caught-in/between hazards exist on our current job site?
2. Are all machine guards in place on every piece of equipment?
3. Can you identify the pinch points on the equipment you operate?
4. What is our procedure if you find a missing machine guard?
5. Do we have proper trench protection for all excavation work?

### TOOLBOX TALK SIGN-OFF

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance sheet attached: [ ] Yes