

TOOLBOX TALK

Struck-By Hazards

WHY THIS MATTERS

Struck-by incidents are one of the 'Fatal Four' causes of death in construction. Workers are killed or injured by flying objects, falling objects, swinging loads, and moving vehicles every day. Awareness and simple precautions can prevent these tragedies.

75+

Struck-by deaths per year in construction

#2

Leading cause of construction fatalities

100%

Struck-by incidents are preventable

4 Types of Struck-By Hazards

Know these four categories to recognize and avoid struck-by dangers:

1

STRUCK BY FLYING OBJECTS

Debris from cutting, grinding, or power tools. Always wear safety glasses and face shields.

2

STRUCK BY FALLING OBJECTS

Tools, materials, or debris falling from above. Wear hard hats. Secure tools with lanyards.

3

STRUCK BY SWINGING LOADS

Crane loads, equipment, or materials in motion. Never stand under suspended loads.

4

STRUCK BY MOVING VEHICLES

Forklifts, trucks, excavators backing up or turning. Use spotters. Wear high-vis vests.

Before You Start — Quick Checklist

- Is the work area secured with barricades or warning signs?
- Are all workers wearing hard hats and safety glasses?
- Are tools and materials secured from falling at heights?
- Is heavy equipment operation area clear of workers on foot?
- Are spotters assigned for vehicles and equipment backing up?
- Are crane lift zones established and communicated?

PPE & Site Inspection — Before Every Shift

- Hard hat:** Inspect for cracks, dents, or damage. Replace if dropped from height or after any impact.
- Safety glasses:** Check for scratches, cracks, or loose frames. Must be impact-rated (ANSI Z87.1).
- Face shield:** Use when grinding, cutting, or chipping. Must be worn over safety glasses.
- High-vis vest:** Wear reflective vest near moving vehicles or equipment. Must be clean and visible.
- Barricades:** Verify all drop zones and swing areas are barricaded. Check signs are in place.
- Tool lanyards:** All tools at height must be tethered. Check lanyard connections are secure.

Common Mistakes That Kill

- ✗ Walking under suspended crane loads — never position yourself under a load
- ✗ Not wearing a hard hat because "nothing is overhead" — objects can fly sideways
- ✗ Leaving tools unsecured on elevated surfaces — a falling wrench can kill
- ✗ Standing in equipment blind spots — operators cannot see you
- ✗ Not using spotters when vehicles are backing up — reversing is the most dangerous

Safety Tips to Remember

- ✓ Hard hat on at ALL times on site — no exceptions, even for "quick tasks"
- ✓ Never stand under a load — stay clear of crane operations and hoisting zones
- ✓ Secure all tools and materials at height — use tool lanyards, toe boards, and nets
- ✓ Make eye contact with operators — if they can't see you, you're in danger
- ✓ Stay alert — watch for moving equipment, swinging loads, and overhead work

Discussion Questions for Your Team

1. What struck-by hazards exist on our current job site?
2. Where are the crane operation and hoisting zones today?
3. Are all our tools at height properly secured with lanyards?
4. Can you identify the blind spots on our heavy equipment?
5. What would you do if you saw unsecured materials overhead?

TOOLBOX TALK SIGN-OFF

Date: _____ Supervisor: _____

Project: _____ Location: _____

Attendance sheet attached: Yes