



TOOLBOX TALKS

Struck-by Toolbox Talk # 1

How Can We Be Safe Around Equipment?

Ask the following questions and give time for answers.

What are the hazards? Employees working around heavy equipment are exposed to pinch points, back-in-to, run-over, and back-over hazards when working in proximity to heavy equipment and construction vehicles.

What are the results? Serious bodily harm including, injuries to the head, back, extremities and internal organs. These types of struck-by incidents can result in life-changing injuries and are often fatal.

What should we look for? Blind spots, congested work areas, multiple trades working in a single work space, malfunctioning or disconnected back-up alarms, pinch-points between machinery/vehicles and fixed objects, vehicular traffic in and around work zones (road construction).

Here is an example of a recent struck-by related fatality:

A worker was killed in 2015 in Washington County, Pennsylvania when he was struck by a utility vehicle that was backing up in the work area. The employee, became trapped beneath the utility truck, was in a blind spot and was not seen by the driver. The 43-year-old worker suffered injuries to his head, chest, and abdomen and was pronounced dead at the scene.

How do we prevent these incidents?

- Avoid equipment blind spots where you can go unseen by operators/drivers
- Respond to back up alarms and ensure their proper function
- Use spotters to warn operators/drivers of nearby workers and hazards
- Always determine a route of escape
- Always wear high-visibility/reflective clothing in accordance with your company's and DOT requirements



This information has been developed by OSHA and its partners with the intent to assist employers, workers, and others as they strive to improve workplace health and safety. This information must be understood as a tool for addressing workplace hazards, rather than an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards.

