Fact Sheet

Struck-By Accidents

If vehicle safety practices are not observed at your site, you risk being pinned between construction vehicles and walls, being struck by the rotating boom of a crane or by swinging backhoes, being crushed beneath overturned vehicles, having a truck or a piece of heavy equipment back into you (particularly if visibility is poor due to inclement weather or poor lighting) or other similar accidents. If you work near public roadways, you risk being struck by wayward trucks or cars that unexpectedly swerve or leave the highway. If you are the operator of the vehicle, you must beware of vehicle rollovers or crashes.

The most struck-by injuries are caused by the following hazards:

- **Vehicles** – Most likely trucks or cranes
- **Falling or Flying Objects** – Examples are something falling from a scaffold; or something flying at you when someone is using a power tool and an object chips off.
- **Constructing Masonry Walls** – Lifting large loads of heavy slabs and more presents hazards.

Workers are most at risk from falling objects when standing or working under scaffolds, cranes, workers performing masonry, workers setting the beams of a building in place, scaffolds, or wherever overhead work is being performed. The danger from flying objects exists when power tools – such as grinders – throw off particles; or when pushing, pulling, prying or similar activities causes objects to become airborne. Injuries can range from minor abrasions to concussions, blindness, or even death.

- **Wearing hardhats goes a long way towards helping protect you if something falls, flies, or swings into your head. Make sure tools and materials are secured when stored in overhead locations to prevent them from falling on people below. Avoid working underneath loads being moved by cranes, backhoes, and hoists. Barricade hazard areas and post warning signs.**

- **Use safety glasses, goggles, face shields, etc., where machines or tools may cause flying particles; and always inspect tools, such as saws and lathes, to ensure that protective guards are in good condition. Make sure you are trained in the proper operation of powder actuated tools**
To avoid accidents involving the construction of masonry walls:

- Do not place construction loads on a concrete structure until a qualified person indicates that it can support the load.
- Shore or brace structures until permanent supporting elements are in place, or until the concrete has been tested to assure it has sufficient strength.
- Allow only essential personnel who are actively engaged in construction or lifting operations into the work area.
- Take measures to prevent unrolled wire mesh from recoiling, such as securing each end or turning the roll over.
- Do not load lifting devices beyond their capacity, and use automatic holding devices to support forms in case a lifting mechanism fails.
Caught Between

Workers who operate construction vehicles or equipment risk injury due to overturn, collision, or being caught in running equipment. Here are some OSHA and NIOSH recommendations for preventing some common caught-by accidents:

- Ensure that raised dump truck bodies are locked against inadvertent lowering before employees work under them.

- Employers should develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive written safety program for all workers that includes training in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and in required safe work practices that apply to their work environments.

- Employers should ensure that workers who are part of a multilingual workforce comprehend instructions in safe work procedures for the tasks to which they are assigned.

- Employers should instruct forklift operators to ground the forks of the forklift, turn the forklift off, set the parking break, and neutralize the controls prior to dismounting the machine.

- Employers should instruct forklift operators never to stand inside the cage of the forklift while it is in operation.

- Ensure that all exposed and accessible sections of conveyors on machines are guarded.

- Employers should perform a hazard analysis prior to equipment use to ensure it is safe for employees.

- Employers should provide training for employees on the proper use and the hazards of equipment at the workplace.

- Employers should develop, implement and enforce the basic elements of a lockout/tagout program.

Proper training, proper PPE and keeping one’s extremities out of the way of the moving parts of a machine are essential to safe work practices. Make sure you read training materials and signs, attend training classes when offered, and wear the proper gear when operating machinery. Above all, keep your eyes open and stay alert; expecting the unexpected may help save your life.