

OSHA Focus Four: "Struck By"



"Struck BY"

Struck-by injuries are produced by forcible contact or impact between the injured person and an object or piece of equipment. Having said that, it is important to point out that in construction, struck-by hazards can resemble caught-in or – between hazards.

There is a distinction which is best explained by looking at the key factor in making a determination between a *Caught* event and a *Struck* event, ask: Was it the impact of the object alone that caused the injury? When the impact alone creates

the injury, the event is considered as *Struck*. On the other hand, when the injury is created more as a result of crushing injuries between objects, the event is considered as *Caught*.

Struck-by hazards are categorized as follows:

- Struck-by flying object
- Struck-by falling object
- Struck-by swinging object
- Struck-by rolling object

NOTES:

According to OSHA, "Struck" is defined as: injuries produced by forcible contact or impact between the injured person and an object or piece of equipment.

Examples

Struck-by hazards in construction cause accidents

such as the following:

- A construction worker was hoisting bricks in a bucket to the top of a building. The bucket tilted, and the bricks spilled out of the bucket, striking the worker in the head. The worker suffered blunt force trauma to his head, and he died at the hospital eight days later.
- Four workers were installing signs on a highway, when a pick-up truck changed several lanes and entered the work area. The truck struck one of the workers, knocking him off the road and over a bridge rail. He fell approximately 18 ft and died.

Monthly Safety Question;

**How many workers are killed in trenches each month?
 (Answer at bottom)**

Ladders

Hazard:

Ladders and stairways are another source of injuries and fatalities among construction workers. OSHA estimates that there are 24,882 injuries and as many as 36 fatalities per year due to falls on stairways and ladders used in construction. Nearly half of these injuries were serious enough to require time off the job.

Solutions:

- Use the correct ladder for the task.
- Have a competent person visually inspect a ladder before use for any defects such as:
 - Structural damage, split/bent side rails, broken or missing rungs/steps/ cleats and missing or damaged safety devices;
 - Grease, dirt or other contaminants that could cause slips or falls; Paint or stickers (except warning labels) that could hide possible defects.
- Make sure that ladders are long enough to safely reach the work area.
- Mark or tag ("Do Not Use") damaged or defective ladders for repair or replacement, or destroy them immediately.
- Never load ladders beyond the maximum intended load or beyond the manufacturer's rated capacity.
- Be sure the load rating can support the weight of the user, materials and tools.
- Avoid using ladders with metallic components near electrical work and overhead power lines.

Working Safely In Trenches

Two workers are killed every month in trench collapses. Each worker in a trench shall be protected from a cave-in by an adequate protective system.

Some of the protective systems for trenches are:

- Sloped for stability; or
- Cut to create stepped benched grades (Type A or B soil only); or
- Supported by a system

made with materials such as posts, beams, shores or planking and hydraulic jacks; or

- Shielded by a trench box to protect workers in a trench. Excavated or other materials and equipment must be at least 2 feet back from the edge of a trench; and A safe way to exit must be provided within 25 feet of workers in a trench.

A competent person must inspect trenches daily and when conditions change. An unprotected trench is an early grave. Do not enter an unprotected trench



**Know what's below.
 Call before you dig.**