

Preventing Struck-by Incidents

With all the moving equipment, flying debris, and falling objects on a construction site, it can be dangerous for an individual on the ground. As ground personnel on the job site, it is essential to understand each day's specific hazards. Furthermore, everyone needs to work together to eliminate or mitigate the dangers that result in struck-by incidents.

Struck-by incidents are one of the most significant risks to ground personnel on any construction site. These incidents were responsible for 8.1% of all fatalities in the construction industry in 2014. There are many struck-by hazards on every construction site that can severely injure or kill workers on any given day. Common struck-by hazards include moving equipment, falling objects, and flying debris.

Safeguards to Prevent Struck-by Incidents

- Eliminate as many struck-by hazards due to equipment as possible. For example, does a piece of equipment or vehicle need to operate where there are pedestrians? Can unnecessary backing be eliminated? Can the worker on the ground wait to complete the task they were assigned to do or complete it somewhere else away from moving equipment?
- Eliminate the potential for falling objects. Remove materials or tools that are located on an elevated level when possible. If elimination is not possible, make sure proper toe boards are placed on any high surfaces to prevent objects from sliding off. Another option is to tie off tools and materials to ensure they do not fall to a lower level.
- Barricade work zones to prevent entry where equipment is operating or work overhead being completed. Substantial barricades such as fences will help prevent ground personnel from entering an area where they could be injured.
- Barricade or separate any work tasks that create flying debris. For example, workers should not be exposed to grinding operations or operations that create excessive dust, like cutting concrete, if they do not complete the task.

It is difficult to entirely eliminate the hazards resulting in struck-by incidents, but proper planning and work zone delineation can help eliminate exposure to these risks. Evaluate your work tasks to see if there are any unnecessary risks to ground personnel due to the mentioned hazards above. Get more information at SafetyTalkIdeas.com

