

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TALK SERIES - THE FATAL FOUR (FOCUS FOUR) CAUGHT-IN OR -BETWEEN HAZARDS

Caught-in or -between hazards led to 72 construction worker deaths in 2016.

By identifying these hazards, and understanding how they happen, we can take steps to protect ourselves.



According to OSHA... Caught-In or -Between Hazards are defined as injuries resulting from a person being squeezed, caught, crushed, pinched, or compressed between two or more objects, or between parts of an object.

For more information and training on how to prevent the Focus Four Hazards, please visit: https://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/construction/focus_four/index.html

TYPES OF CAUGHT -IN OR -BETWEEN SITUATIONS AND WHAT TO BE AWARE OF

Cave-Ins / Collapses

- Trenches or excavation sites with inadequate wall bracing or benching / sloping.
- Walls collapsing during demolition.
- Scaffolding collapse.

Pinned Between / Crushed

- Machinery that is not Locked Out / Tagged Out.
- Rigging failures resulting in dropped loads.
- Moving equipment that can pin objects against a wall or other equipment.

Entrapped / Caught In

- Machinery that has unguarded moving parts.
- Machinery that is not Locked Out / Tagged Out.

How to Protect Yourself:

- Always be aware of situations where you can become trapped or crushed by an object.
- Use machinery that is properly guarded.
- Use Lockout / Tagout and then verify the machine is in zero energy state.
- Barricade open areas where you can become trapped or crushed.
- Use proper guarding in open excavations and trenches.
- Install adequate bracing, or rigging, to ensure that items do not fall or move unexpectedly.
- Always make eye contact with equipment operators, and never walking behind, or in a swing radius of, machinery.

What is Your Employer’s Responsibility?

- Provide guards on power tools and other equipment with moving parts.
- Support or secure (make safe) equipment having parts that workers could be caught between.
- Ensure equipment is prevented from tipping or rolling over and has ROPS in place with seatbelts in use.
- Prevent workers from being in pinch point areas of equipment.
- Provide protection for workers during trenching and excavation work.
- Prevent workers from being crushed by dropped or collapsing materials during construction and demolition work or high winds.
- Designate a competent person to ensure safe work practices are practiced.
- Provide proper training for workers, including how to recognize and avoid hazards on-site.