

“For Safety’s Sake - Do Something”

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



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.

By identifying caught-in or -between hazards, and understanding how they happen, we can take steps to protect ourselves.

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.

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