CrewSigned

Struck-By Hazards Toolbox Talk

5-minute read-aloud · Last reviewed November 24, 2026

Being struck by something is one of the four leading ways construction workers die, along with falls, electrocution and getting caught in or between. A struck-by injury happens when something moving hits you: a vehicle or machine, something falling from above, something flying from a tool, or a load swinging on a crane. The fix for all of them is the same idea. Stay out of the line of fire.

Vehicles and equipment are the biggest danger. Operators have big blind spots, especially behind and right next to the machine. Never assume they can see you. Make eye contact with the operator before you walk near a machine, and wait for a signal. Do not walk behind a truck or loader that is backing up. Stay out of the swing area of excavators and cranes. Wear your high-visibility vest every day, and in work zones next to traffic, stay inside the barriers. Vehicles that back up with an obstructed view need a working backup alarm or a spotter.

Falling objects are next. Wear your hard hat whenever there is work overhead. Do not walk under a suspended load, ever. If you work above others, keep tools tethered or in a bag, use toe boards and debris nets, and never toss tools or material down. Stack material so it cannot slide or roll, and keep it back from edges.

Flying objects come from grinders, saws, nail guns, chipping hammers and compressed air. Wear safety glasses or a face shield that matches the task. Keep guards on tools. Do not point a nail gun or an air hose at anyone, and do not use compressed air to clean off your clothes. Think about who is standing beside or behind your work before you start.

Rolling and sliding things count too. Chock wheels on parked trucks and trailers. Secure pipe and round stock so it cannot roll. Never get between a moving load and something solid.

Before every task, ask yourself two questions. What could move here? And if it does, where am I standing? If the answer is in its path, move.

Discussion questions

1. Where on this site do people on foot and vehicles share the same space?
2. What is overhead of you right now that could fall?
3. Which tool or task this week could throw chips, nails or debris at someone nearby?

OSHA standard

29 CFR 1926.601, Motor vehicles
https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.601

SOURCES

OSHA Construction Focus Four Training: https://www.osha.gov/training/outreach/construction/focus-four
Construction Focus Four: Struck-By Hazards Student Handouts: https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/struckbyhaz_handouts.pdf
NIOSH, Construction Equipment Visibility: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/motor-vehicle/constructionequipmentvisibilitydiagram/index.html
NIOSH, Highway Work Zone Safety: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/motor-vehicle/highway/index.html

This talk does not replace training that an OSHA standard requires. Scripts are based on OSHA and NIOSH publications and rewritten in plain language.

Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheet

TOPIC

Struck-By Hazards Toolbox Talk

COMPANY

JOB / SITE

DATE

TIME

PRESENTER

#	Printed name	Signature	Company / trade
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