



★★ PREVENTING “STRUCK BY” ACCIDENTS ★★

“Struck by” accidents are of three main types:

- Many of these accidents are caused by moving vehicles, like construction vehicles or heavy machinery.
- Other “struck by” accidents involve injuries caused by falling objects, such as tools falling from workers on upper levels, ladders, or scaffolds, or by improperly stored materials, such as poorly stacked building supplies and lumber or warehouse materials on unstable shelving.
- Struck by a collapsing concrete or masonry wall under construction.

Operators of moving vehicles in a workplace setting must:

- Inspect vehicles before each shift to ensure that all parts and accessories are in safe operating condition.
- Always drive on stable surfaces and take particular care on steep grades or ramps that might cause a tipover.
- Never drive a vehicle in reverse gear with an obstructed rear view, unless it has an audible reverse alarm, or another worker signals that it is safe.
- Make sure that you and all other personnel are in the clear before using dumping or lifting devices.
- Set parking brakes when vehicles and equipment are parked, and chock the wheels if the vehicle is on an incline.
- Never exceed a vehicle’s rated load or lift capacity.
- Do not carry personnel unless there is a passenger seat and the rider is using a seat belt.

You can protect yourself from “struck by” vehicle accidents by the following:

- Watching out for moving vehicles, especially at intersections, blind corners, or when they are against a wall.
- Never assume that the driver sees you—in a collision with a moving vehicle, the pedestrian will be the loser.
- Never stand in front of a windowless, swinging door.
- Before working near a door, post a warning sign or prop the door open. This is especially important if working from a ladder.
- Do not push a door open rapidly or forcefully. Someone may be on the other side.
- Don’t be distracted by talking to others—be alert at all times.



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To prevent being struck by falling objects, you should:

- Stack materials carefully to prevent sliding, falling, or collapsing.
- Secure tools and materials to prevent them from falling on people below.
- Use debris nets, catch platforms, or canopies to catch or deflect falling objects.
- Don't leave tools or loose parts on window ledges, shelves, cranes, or working platforms. If you see any loose tools, report them or remove them.
- Obey signs requiring hard hats even if you don't see signs of activity.
- Wear a hard hat if there is any danger of something falling even if there are no warning signs posted.

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