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# **Tool Box Safety Talk # 44 10-27-2024.**

**Topic: Preventing Struck By Injuries**

Struck-by injuries are one of the four leading causes of fatalities in the construction industry, known as the "Fatal Four." These incidents occur when a worker is forcibly struck by an object, equipment, or vehicle. This toolbox talk will cover the importance of preventing struck-by injuries, relevant OSHA regulations, and statistics highlighting the significance of this issue.

**OSHA Regulations:**

**1. 29 CFR 1926.601 - Motor Vehicles:**

* Ensure all vehicles on-site are equipped with functioning backup alarms, especially when the operator’s view is obstructed.
* All workers must be trained to stay clear of vehicles when they are in motion, particularly in blind spots.

**2. 29 CFR 1926.602 - Material Handling Equipment:**

* Ensure equipment is properly maintained and used according to the manufacturer’s specifications.
* Operators must be trained and certified, particularly for equipment like cranes and forklifts.

**3. 29 CFR 1926.651 - Excavation Requirements:**

* Proper protective systems must be in place to prevent cave-ins and protect workers from falling debris in excavation sites.
* Ensure that materials are stored at least 2 feet from the edge of an excavation.

**4. 29 CFR 1926.701 - Concrete and Masonry Construction:**

* Implement adequate shoring and bracing to prevent the collapse of concrete forms or masonry walls.

**5. 29 CFR 1926.100 - Head Protection:**

* Hard hats must be worn at all times in areas where there is a potential for falling or flying objects.

**Statistics:**

* According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), struck-by injuries accounted for approximately 15% of all construction fatalities in 2022.
* In 2022, struck-by injuries resulted in over 5,000 reported incidents, many of which led to serious injury or death.
* The leading causes of struck-by fatalities include being struck by falling objects, vehicles, and heavy equipment.

**Common Causes of Struck-By Injuries:**

* **Falling Objects:** Tools, materials, or equipment falling from heights.
* **Moving Equipment:** Vehicles or machinery striking workers, particularly in blind spots.
* **Flying Objects:** Objects ejected from machinery or tools.
* **Rolling Objects:** Heavy objects rolling over workers, often due to improper stacking or securing.

**Prevention Strategies:**

1. **Stay Alert:**
   * Always be aware of your surroundings, particularly in areas with moving vehicles or equipment.
2. **Proper PPE:**
   * Wear hard hats, safety goggles, and other necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to mitigate the impact of any potential struck-by hazards.
3. **Secure Materials:**
   * Ensure all tools, materials, and equipment are securely fastened when working at height.
   * Use toeboards, screens, or guardrails to prevent materials from falling.
4. **Communication:**
   * Use spotters and ensure clear communication between equipment operators and workers on the ground.
5. **Follow Safe Work Practices:**
   * Never walk under suspended loads.
   * Keep a safe distance from heavy equipment and vehicles.
6. **Training:**
   * Regularly train workers on the identification and prevention of struck-by hazards.

**Discussion Questions:**

* What struck-by hazards have you observed on our worksite?
* How can we improve our current safety practices to better prevent struck-by injuries?

**Conclusion:**

Preventing struck-by injuries requires constant vigilance and adherence to safety protocols. By following OSHA regulations, wearing proper PPE, and maintaining situational awareness, we can reduce the risk of these potentially deadly incidents.

Safety Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**TRAINING ROSTER**

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ JOBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## SUPERVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**ADDITIONAL TOPICS COVERED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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