



Struck-by Hazards



Struck-by Hazards



Struck-by hazards occur when a worker is hit by a moving object, vehicle, or piece of equipment.

Common examples include being struck by falling tools, moving vehicles, or swinging equipment in the workplace.

In 2024 43% of all fatalities in Virginia were the result of struck-by injuries.

Struck-by Hazards Overview



Hazard Recognition

1. Struck-by Falling Objects
2. Struck-by Flying Objects
3. Struck-by Swinging/Slipping Objects
4. Struck-by Objects on Ground Level

Accident Prevention

1. Personal Protective Equipment
2. Material Storage
3. Proper Materials Handling
4. Work Zone Safety

Struck-by Falling Objects



Working or walking below elevated work surfaces may expose you to falling objects.

If you are working on elevated work surfaces, you are a hazard to all workers who are working below you.

Any materials or debris that you throw, drop or push off the work surface have the potential to fall on workers below you.

Struck-by Falling Objects



Materials being moved overhead expose you to falling objects.

As the materials are being bundled for handling, make sure all pieces are secured.

Unsecured pieces may fall from the load onto workers.

Struck-by Falling Objects



Keep a safe distance from suspended loads.

Never place yourself under a suspended object or load of material.

Struck-by Falling Objects

Store materials properly.

Materials that are placed on an elevated storage or receiving area have the potential of falling onto workers.



Struck-by Falling Objects



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Struck-by Flying Objects



Power tools and activities such as pushing, pulling, or prying can create flying objects.

There is a danger of being struck-by flying objects when using power tools, or when being involved in activities like pushing, pulling, or prying. These types of activities may cause objects to become airborne. These objects are typically propelled from their source and can cause greater injury due to the forces behind them.



Struck-by Flying Objects

Users of power-actuated tools must be trained and licensed to operate.

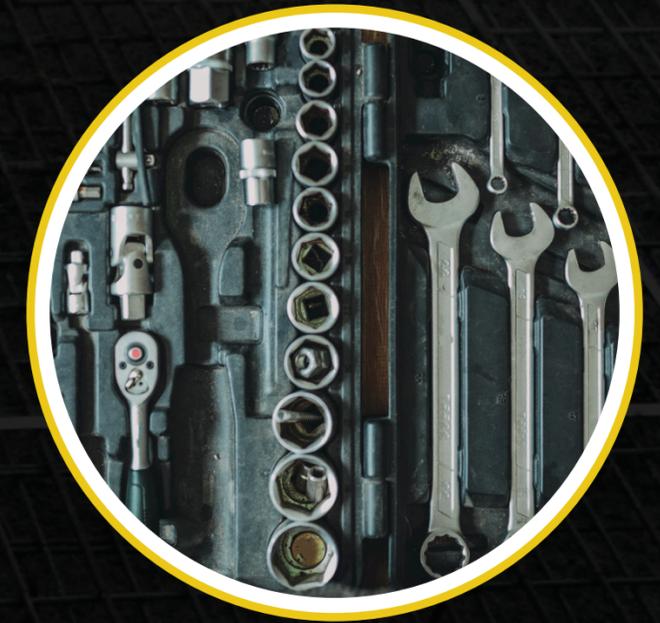
Before using power tools make sure:

- To wear appropriate PPE.
- To be trained to properly operate the tool according to manufacturer's instructions.
- To inspect the tool before using.
- That all guards are in place, and guard rotating and moving parts.

Hand Tool Hazards

Make sure not to use:

- Wrenches when jaws are sprung; the wrench might slip.
- Impact tools (chisel, wedges) when the heads have mushroomed; heads might shatter on impact sending fragments towards the worker or others.
- Tools with loose, cracked or splintered handles; the head of the tool may fly off and strike the worker or others.
- Screwdrivers as a chisel; the tip may break off and hit the worker or others.



Struck-by Flying Objects



Grinding or striking materials can create flying object hazards.

These flying objects can lodge in your eyes and cause blindness.

If they strike you in other parts of your body, they may cause serious injuries, serious infections, or even death.



Struck-by Flying Objects

Air pressurized above 30 psi can drive oils and other particles through your skin.

Unfortunately, many workers also use compressed air to clean dirt and debris off their clothing and body.

Struck-by Swinging / Slipping Objects



Do not work under loads as they are being lifted.

When materials are lifted, they have the potential to swing and strike workers.

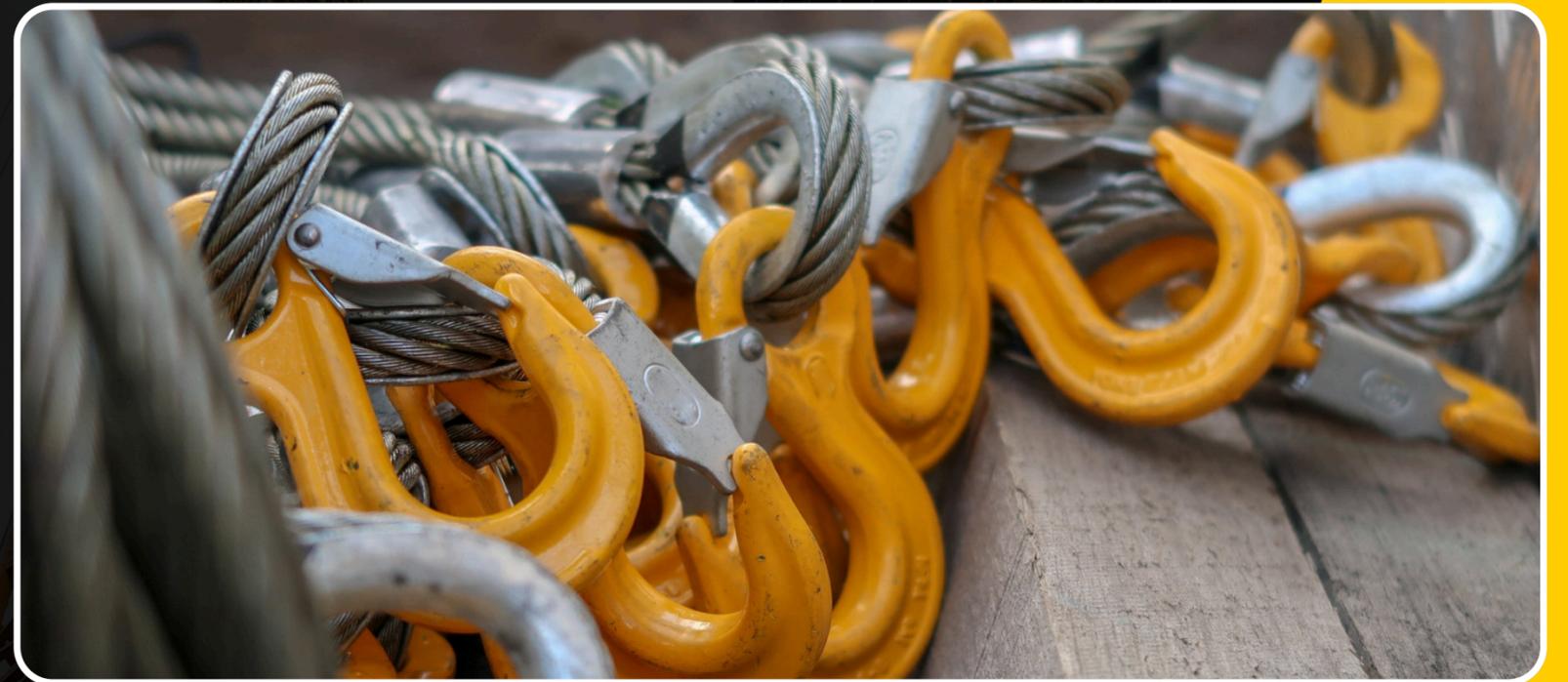
As the load is lifted, the materials may swing, twist or turn.

This movement may catch workers by surprise and they may be hit by the swinging load.

Struck-by Swinging/Slipping Objects

Secure all loads and lift them evenly to prevent them from slipping.

Objects that slip may fall from their riggings and strike you.



Struck-by Objects on Ground Level

You may be struck by moving materials or equipment.

At ground level, you may be exposed to struck-by hazards from materials, heavy equipment, vehicular traffic, or traffic in a work zone area.



Struck-by Objects on Ground Level

All traffic on construction sites can create struck-by hazards.



If you are driving the vehicle you must:

- Use the safety belt;
- Always drive in designated areas;
- Use a spotter when backing and use audible reverse signals;
- If on an incline, park, use safety brake, and chock the wheels;
- When lifting and lowering materials look around for hazards (workers and objects)
- Always watch for workers who may not be watching you.

Struck-by Vehicular Traffic

Wear a reflective vest;

Never place yourself between a vehicle and an immovable object such as a building;

Make eye contact with the operator before crossing the path of the vehicle;

Always watch for operators who may not be watching you.



Personal Protective Equipment



Wear a hardhat if overhead hazards exist

Never wear a damaged hardhat. If your hardhat is damaged, remove it and get another one. A damaged hardhat will not protect you.

Overhead hazards are for example falling and flying objects, or objects that you may bump into.

Wear safety glasses or a face shield if flying hazards exist.

Materials Storage



Secure materials so they do not fall on workers.

Materials stored inside buildings under construction shall not be placed within 6 feet of any floor openings.

Materials shall not be stored on scaffolds in excess of supplies needed for immediate operations.

Materials Handling



Inspect all rigging before using.

Never work under a suspended load

Stay clear of loads as they are being lifted

Never lift a load that is greater than the crane's lifting capacity.

Crane operators and personnel working with cranes need to know the basics of the crane's lifting capacities, limitations, and specific job site restrictions.

Work Zone Safety

Use extreme caution when approaching heavy equipment.

Only authorized personnel are allowed to be in the work zone.

When stopped, never approach vehicles from behind, always approach from the front or the sides as long as you are making eye contact with the equipment operator.



Injury Prevention



A safe work culture will help make a safer work environment.

Hazard recognition is the first step in having a safe workplace.

Once you recognize the hazard, you must do something about it.

By controlling or eliminating the hazard, you have made the workplace safer.

Injury Free (IF) Culture



Ask yourself the question “What IF I could go my entire career injury free?”

Injury Free is a cultural attitude. It is a way of thinking that prevents injuries, making safety a high priority at both the personal and organizational levels.

<https://doli.virginia.gov/what-if/>

Thank You.



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