

Toolbox Talks



Struck-by Incident

Incident: In February 2020, an employee working in a trench was struck-by an excavator bucket, which was removing soil from the excavation, resulting in numerous broken bones and contusions. The employee was severely injured and succumbed to his injuries days later.

What could have been done to prevent this incident?

1. Before beginning trenching or excavation operations, a job hazard analysis (JHA) should be prepared and reviewed by all involved in the operation.
2. Daily huddles should be conducted every day to ensure everyone understands where and how the work is taking place.
3. Workers should be trained to stand clear of bucket work, at a distance where the bucket cannot accidentally strike the worker.
4. Operators should be trained not to move the bucket if a worker is inside the swing radius of the bucket.
5. If something changes from the plan, stop work and revise and review the plan with the workers involved.
6. Ensure workers working around heavy equipment are wearing high visibility, fluorescent outerwear.
7. Workers should stay out of the blind spots of machine, and in a place where they can easily make eye contact with the operator before entering the bucket swing radius.
8. All workers should be trained on working around heavy equipment.
9. All workers operating machinery should be trained on the specific machine on which they are working.
10. Consider installing a sonar detection system or object detection system on the heavy equipment.
11. Stay alert when working around heavy equipment.



Discussion: Is heavy equipment being used at this site?

Have there been any near-miss or actual incidents at this site? What are we doing at this site to prevent struck-by incidents?

