

TALKING PAPER
ON
Caught-in/Between

PURPOSE

- Provide information on the dangers of being Caught-in/Between

DEFINITION

- Caught-in hazards occur when a worker could be caught inside of or between different objects¹.

BACKGROUND

- In 2013, OSHA recorded 21 deaths caused by caught-in/between incidents².
- Caught-in/between is one of OSHA's Fatal Four, attributing for 4.3% of all construction related fatalities³
- Air Force experienced 1,679 mishaps categorized as Caught, Crushed, Jammed or Pinched In/Between Objects from FY2011 through FY2015⁴
- These 1,679 mishaps included 2 Fatal, 18 Permanent Partial Disability, 332 Lost Time mishaps, 1,326 First Aid injuries and 1 Class E-OSHA mishap⁴
- Air Force cost for these 1,679 mishaps is \$11, 033, 660.00 or an average of \$6,571.57 per mishap⁴

DISCUSSION

- Leading Causal Factors
 - Removing guards
 - Failing to follow written instructions, policies, regulations
 - Inattention/distraction from work being performed
 - Poor body/hand positioning (Risk Awareness)
 - Failing to barricade/properly guard work area
 - Improper material handling
- Prevention
 - Leave guards in place and never circumvent a guard. Always replace missing guards before operating equipment or machinery
 - Always work at a safe distance from moving machinery and equipment

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- Never work in the swing radius of rotating equipment
- Never place yourself between a vehicle, piece of heavy equipment or machinery and an immovable object
- Never place your hands or body near moving parts. Gloves, long sleeve shirts/blouses, jewelry, or loose fitting clothing can be hazardous around moving parts
- When moving heavy objects ensure proper PPE is worn and be mindful of hand placement to avoid hand being caught between heavy object being moved and immovable object
- Do not position yourself between materials that may fall and an immovable object

SUMMARY

Caught in/between is one of OSHA's deadly four mishaps. Every year numerous deaths and hundreds of injuries are attributed to this type of mishap. These mishaps don't have to happen. Being mindful of where you are in relation to heavy objects, machinery, vehicles or equipment may prevent such an injury or fatality. It is important that worker's receive proper training on risks associated with being caught in/between and that proper guidance be strictly adhered to regarding working with and around vehicles, heavy equipment, objects and machinery.

References

- ¹Occupational Safety and Health, N.D. Big Four Construction Hazards: Struck-by Hazards. Retrieved from <https://search.usa.gov/search?affiliate=usdoloshapublicwebsite&query=Big+Four+Construction+Hazards>
- ²HCSS, N.D. HCSS Innovative Software, Caught-In/Between Incidents Pose Major Construction Safety Concerns. Retrieved from <http://blog.hcss.com/caught-in/between-incidents-pose-major-construction-safety-concerns>
- ³Occupational Safety and Health Administration, N.D. Retrieved from <https://www.osha.gov/oshstats/commonstats.html>
- ⁴Air Force Safety Automated System. Retrieved from <https://afsas.af.mil/Home.do>