

SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK



STRUCK BY OR AGAINST

- Struck-by injuries are produced by forcible contact or impact between the injured person and an object or piece of equipment. These accidents result in injuries causing severe physical trauma that can lead to death. Struck By" accidents can be caused by vehicles, by falling debris, by moving equipment and by faulty equipment.
- Struck-by accidents account for 11% of all reported accidents on Fort Irwin and are the most common causation factor in injuries resulting in lost time.
- Many struck by or against injuries result from failing to secure equipment inside of a moving vehicle. Unsecured items often become missiles during an accident, whether they are launched in a sudden stop or fly through the car during a rollover.
- During a collision, impact from a loose object will have a relative force equal to the object's weight multiplied by the speed in which it travels. An unsecured bottle holding two quarts of water packs a 83lb in a vehicle traveling only twenty miles per hour. Whenever possible, place heavy items on floorboards or in the cargo area of a vehicle.
- Always wear personal protective equipment whenever lifting objects, whether manually or using tools or cranes. Never position yourself under a suspended load and stay well outside the swing radius.
- Whenever using power tools, always wear safety glasses, goggles or a face shield. Do not operate power tools unless protective guards are in place.
- Never work distracted. Always remain aware of your surroundings.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- When engineering, work practice and administrative controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, employers must provide personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Employers are required to train each worker required to use personal protective equipment. Workers must know :
 - When it is necessary
 - What kind is necessary
 - How to properly put it on, adjust, wear and take it off
 - The limitations of the equipment
 - Proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the equipment
- PPE is the last line of defense to protect workers from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.
- PPE should always be inspected prior to each use to ensure that it's in proper working condition and free from any defects or damage.

CAUGHT OR PINCHED BETWEEN

- Caught-between accidents occur when a person is crushed, pinched, or caught between a moving object and a stationary object, or between two moving objects. These accidents result in injuries like bruises, cuts, and scalping to mangled and amputated body parts, and death.
- Caught or pinched between injuries account for about two percent of all reported injuries on Fort Irwin but account for 50% of injuries resulting in permanent partial disability.
- Check for pinch points whenever working around moving part and machinery. Take extra caution when working around equipment that uses belts, chains, sprockets, or power take-off shafts.
- Never operate machinery without all guards in place. Use proper lockout/tag out procedures when repairs or preventive maintenance is being performed.
- Avoid wearing loose clothes or jewelry that can get caught. Never reach into a machine or under machine tool guards while it is still moving or parts are in motion. Avoid wearing gloves when working near rotating shafts or other moving machinery parts.
- Never working under equipment supported only by a jack. Always use a secondary support device.
- Whenever hitching or unhitching equipment always stand to the side. Always make sure that ground guides are visible to the driver.
- Never place yourself between moving materials and an immovable structure, vehicle, or stacked materials.