

TOOLBOX TALK: STRUCK BY AND WORK ZONES

Job or site _____

Date _____

Led by _____

Open with this

Everybody point at where the trucks and the equipment move on this site today. That is the zone. If you are in it, you need to be seen, and somebody needs to be watching.

The talk

Struck by covers three different things and they need three different answers: vehicles and equipment, falling or flying objects, and material that swings or rolls.

Vehicles first. Backing is the one that kills. A pickup, a dump truck, a skid steer, a delivery truck that has never been on this site before. Every one of them has a blind zone directly behind it that is longer than most people believe, and the driver genuinely cannot see you.

The answer is a spotter with agreed hand signals, standing where the driver can see them in the mirror, never behind the vehicle. If the spotter loses sight of the driver, the vehicle stops. And a reverse alarm is not a substitute for a spotter, because on a loud site nobody hears one after the first hour.

High visibility clothing is how you get counted as a person rather than a shape. Vests on everybody on a site with vehicle movement, and anybody working near public traffic needs it as a matter of survival, not policy.

Falling objects are the second category. Anything above head height that can be knocked, dropped or blown. Toeboards on scaffold platforms, tethers on tools used at height, hard hats on every head below, and nobody working directly under somebody else if it can be avoided.

Third, the things that swing and roll. Suspended loads, a load being landed, material stacked and not banded, pipe on a rack, a load shifting on a trailer. Never stand under or in line with a suspended load, and never put yourself between a load and a fixed object.

And if the job touches a public road, that is a work zone. Cones, signs, a taper, flaggers who are trained, and a barrier if the speed and volume call for it. Drivers do not slow down because they see people. They slow down because the zone tells them to.

Point at these before anybody starts

- Where vehicles and equipment travel and turn on this site today

- The blind zone behind the biggest vehicle here, paced out in front of everybody
- Who is spotting, and what the hand signals are
- High visibility clothing on everybody in the vehicle area
- Anything overhead: work above, stacked material, loads, unbanded bundles
- The public road side: cones, signs, taper and who is flagging

The rules that apply

- No vehicle backs up in a work area without a functioning reverse alarm and, where anybody is on foot, a spotter.
- The spotter stands where the driver can see them, never behind the vehicle, and the vehicle stops the moment eye contact is lost.
- High visibility clothing for everybody working around moving vehicles or near public traffic.
- Never stand under or in line with a suspended load, and never between a load and a fixed object.
- Tether tools used at height, use toeboards or debris netting, and keep people out from under overhead work.
- Work zones on public roads get proper signs, tapers and trained flaggers, not a cone and a wave.

Ask the crew

- Who is spotting for the delivery today, and where are they standing?
- Is anybody working directly under somebody else on this job right now?
- Which vehicle here has the worst blind spot, and who has been walking through it?

Close with this

Be seen, stay out of the swing and the blind zone, and nothing backs up on this site without somebody watching.

Attendance

Everybody who was present signs, including subcontractors and anybody visiting the site.

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This talk is general safety information for a crew briefing, not legal advice and not a substitute for the training your employees are required to have. Standards are quoted for orientation only. Check the current text of the standard and your own state plan, which may be stricter than the federal rule.