

# **Struck by Moving Objects**

## **A SAFETY TALK FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS**

This safety talk is designed for discussion leaders to use in preparing safety meetings.

Set a specific time and date for your safety meeting. Publicize your meeting so everyone involved will be sure to attend.

Review this safety talk before the meeting and become familiar with its content. Make notes about the points made in this talk that pertain to your workplace. You should be able to present the material in your own words and lead the discussion without reading it.

Seating space is not absolutely necessary, but arrangements should be made so that those attending can easily see and hear the presentation.

Collect whatever materials and props you will need ahead of time. Try to use equipment in your workplace to demonstrate your points.

### **DURING THE MEETING**

Give the safety talk in your own words. Use the printed talk merely as a guide.

The purpose of a safety meeting is to initiate discussion of safety problems and provide solutions to those problems. Encourage employees to discuss hazards or potential hazards they encounter on the job. Ask them to suggest ways to improve safety in their area.

Don't let the meeting turn into a gripe session about unrelated topics. As discussion leader, it's your job to make sure the topic is safety. Discussing other topics wastes time and can ruin the effectiveness of your safety meeting.

At the end of the meeting, ask employees to sign a sheet on the back of this talk as a record that they attended the safety meeting. Keep this talk on file for your records.

**Struck by Moving Objects**

Probably the most unpredictable type of accident is being struck by a moving object, because it is usually out of the routine.

What do you look out for? What do you have to guard against? You should be careful at blind intersections in and around the worksite, and look out for industrial trucks, overhead cranes and hoists. Rolls or pipes improperly stacked and unguarded can give way and roll into you, causing serious consequences.

Watch for co-workers carrying objects too long for them to handle--a slight change of direction by the carrier can cause the object to swing into someone else.

Workers carrying objects that obscure their vision are a real threat to themselves and co-workers.

On the job is no place to daydream. You could bump into co-workers or stacked material.

Unbalanced loads on lift trucks or materials stacked too high or too wide should not be allowed.

In addition to the more or less unpredictable causes of struck-by accidents, there are some that are predictable, like slivers from machine tools, particles from grinding wheels, chips or splinters from striking hammers or chisels against wood or metal, breaking glass, explosions, uncoiling steel strip rolls and co-workers swinging picks, axes and shovel without looking.

There is another important struck-by hazard--horseplay. While the intent of horseplay is quite innocent, the results can be extremely serious, even fatal.

There are case of lost eyes, broken bones, severe bruises and lacerations, and even deaths. Think before you take part in any horseplay, and discourage others from doing so.

**Note to Discussion Leader:**

If there have been struck-by accidents in your area, be prepared to discuss them with employees. Listen to their idea; they may have the answer you have been looking for. Also, mention any hazards that may be unique to your operation.