

# SAFETY MATTERS



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## Falling Objects – Struck By Object or Equipment

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According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics costs associated with workers being struck by objects or equipment total approximately \$5.3 billion annually. These accidents can happen in virtually any workplace, and injuries can range from scratched skin to death from head trauma. A common sense awareness of these hazards and a commitment to following safety practices can prevent these accidents and injuries.

### There are two main types of “struck by” accidents:

1. Those caused by moving vehicles, such as construction vehicles or forklifts in industrial workplaces.
2. Those caused by falling objects, such as tools falling from workers on upper levels or by improperly stacked materials or unstable shelving.

### Train your employees on how to avoid these common incidents by:

- Inspecting vehicles and equipment to ensure their safe operating condition.
- Taking particular care when driving on steep grades or ramps.
- Never driving with an obstructed rear view.
- Always setting parking brakes and using wheel chocks.
- Watching out for moving vehicles.
- Opening doors slowly.
- Stacking materials carefully.
- Securing tools and materials to prevent from falling on people below.
- Wearing hard hats when required.
- Never operating machinery without proper guarding.
- Following lockout/tagout procedures during repairs.
- Being aware of moving equipment parts when walking near machinery.

### IMPORTANT POINTS

- Struck by accidents are common in many workplaces and are easily avoidable.
- Prevention of struck by accidents involves creating awareness and providing training.

For more safety resources, visit [NFIB.com/safetymatters](https://www.nfib.com/safetymatters)

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