TOOLBOX SAFETY TALK

WHAT SITUATIONS OR TASKS MIGHT EXPOSE WORKERS TO STRUCK-BY HAZARDS?

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EXPLAIN THE DANGER: STRUCK-BY FACTS

A struck-by incident usually resulted in injuries to workers' fingers, hands, and arms. In extreme cases, they can be fatal.

Common types of struck-by hazards include:

- Flying objects (such as a tool, debris, or other objects propelled through the air, by a nail gun, table saw, or other piece of equipment).
- Falling objects (such as tools, roof materials, or ice falling on a worker from above).
- Swinging objects (such as a hammer, or a hoisted load hitting a worker).
- Rolling objects (such as a vehicle or a run-away piece of equipment rolling over a worker).

The occupations in the NWT and Nunavut that were most affected by struck-by incidents in the past 5 years are:

- Construction and trades workers
- Carpenters
- Mine workers

Although struck-by incidents can be difficult to anticipate, proper planning can help reduce workers' exposure to struck-by hazards.

PREVENTING STRUCK-BY INJURIES

Assess and discuss:

- Are there any unusual conditions, such as high winds, that will increase our risk of struck-by hazards?
- Does everyone know what to do if they identify a new hazard?
- Do we need any extra training or hazard assessments because our work environment or work tasks have changed?

PROPOSE CONTROLS

- Can you **eliminate** workers' exposure to struck-by hazards? For example, use hand tools only at ground level, or eliminate the need for both workers and vehicles to use the same worksite entrance?
- Can you **substitute** a safer tool or piece of equipment? For example, a tool with fewer exposed sharp edges, or a better guarding system?
- Can you **engineer** controls such as toe boards, tethers, proximity alarms, covered walkways, or nets to protect workers from being struck by an object?
- Do you need **administrative** controls, such as signage, training, pre-use inspections, safe work practices to reduce workers' exposure to a struck-by hazard?
- Do workers need **personal protective equipment** such as hard hats, goggles, gloves, steel-toed boots, or Hi-Viz vests?

See: *OHS Regulations* Sections 21, 89, 90, 94, 97, 100, 101, 123, 125, 126, 129, 139, 141, 144, 168, 169, 173.
Mine Health and Safety Regulations Sections 1.161(1), 1.91, 8.04, 8.10, 9.43, 10.133(5), 10.121(2), 10.129, 10.16, 10.27, 10.52, 10.53(1), 10.58(2), 11.07, 11.21(1)

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