

Struck-By Hazards: Equipment, Trucks, and Falling Objects

COMPANY

PROJECT

DATE

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Construction crews often share space with moving equipment, backing trucks, and materials being loaded overhead. A driver may not see someone behind a truck, and a raised bucket or shifting load can fall into a work area. Plan where people stand and walk before equipment starts moving.

Stay Clear of Moving Equipment

- Before entering an equipment work area, look for travel paths, loading areas, and places where machines turn. Choose a walking route that keeps you out of those movements.
- Do not assume the operator sees you. Get the operator's attention and wait for the machine to stop before approaching. Stay out of spaces between equipment and walls, piles, or other vehicles.
- Earthmoving equipment must have brakes capable of stopping and holding it fully loaded. Report equipment that rolls unexpectedly or cannot hold its position. Stop the task rather than working around that problem.

Control Backing and Check Vehicles

- Earthmoving or compacting equipment with a blocked rear view must not reverse unless an alarm can be heard above surrounding noise or an employee signals that backing is safe. An alarm is not permission to walk behind equipment.
- If you are signaling, stand where the operator can see you and outside the vehicle's path. Check that the path is clear. If communication is lost or someone enters the path, signal a stop.
- Check jobsite motor vehicles at the beginning of each shift. Check brakes, tires, horn, steering, connections, seat belts, controls, and safety devices. Correct defects before putting the vehicle into service; report damage instead of assuming it can wait.

Watch for Falling Materials

- Wear a protective helmet wherever falling or flying objects could injure your head. A hard hat does not make it safe to stand under a load or beside material that may shift.
- Stay clear while loaders, shovels, or cranes load haulage vehicles. These vehicles must have a cab shield or canopy adequate to protect the operator from shifting or falling material. Report missing or damaged protection.
- Look up before entering a loading or equipment area. If material appears unstable, stop and tell the foreman. Do not try to catch falling material or move closer to inspect it while loading continues.

Secure Parked and Raised Equipment

- Set the parking brake whenever equipment is parked. On an incline, also place wheel chocks to keep the wheels from rolling.
- Lower or block buckets, blades, and dump bodies during repairs or when not in use. Keep controls neutral, motors stopped, and brakes set unless the work requires otherwise.
- Before anyone works under or between raised machinery or parts, provide solid blocking or supporting stacks to prevent falling or shifting. Do not rely on a jack, sling, or hoist alone.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

A loader is filling a truck. You need to cross behind it, but the truck starts backing and its rear view is blocked. Material is also hanging over the load's edge. What would you do before crossing?

Questions for the crew

1. What makes backing earthmoving equipment safe when the rear view is blocked?
2. Which vehicle defects must be corrected before use?
3. What must happen before anyone works beneath raised equipment?

Stay out of equipment paths, keep clear of falling materials, and stop when safe movement or support is uncertain.

Sources: 29 CFR 1926.600, Equipment; 29 CFR 1926.602, Material handling equipment; 29 CFR 1926.601, Motor vehicles; 29 CFR 1926.100, Head protection
Drafted with AI for review by a competent person. Clever Rook writes from the official regulation text it cites, but it doesn't know your site. Check it against your conditions and your company's safety program before use. Not legal advice.

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REVIEWED BY (COMPETENT PERSON)

REVIEW DATE

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