



Tool Box Talk

Focus Four Fatalities in Construction

Special points of interest:

Focus Four hazards in construction account for 79% of all construction fatalities.

1. Falls (34%)
2. Electrocutions (11%)
3. Struck By (24%)
4. Caught In and Caught Between (10%)

Electrocutions:

1. Painter contacted overhead lines while painting a barn with a paint sprayer attached to an 8 ft. metal pole, climbed a ladder to 35 ft. when contact was made. **A minimum of 10 ft distance from live power line should have been maintained.**
2. Demolishing a curtain wall from a scissor lift and employee used a steel crowbar to break through existing drywall. The worker was electrocuted due to an extension cord, laying on floor of scissor lift and over edge of lift down to ground cord shorted to the lift, energizing the lift. Worker became path to ground when crowbar contacted metal framing. **A GFCI must always be used for protection against electrocution.**

Struck By:

1. A load of roofing materials on a pallet was suspended with two synthetic slings hoisted by a tower crane to a staging area located the roof. Rolls of roofing became dislodged from a wooden pallet and fell on an employee on the roof. **Material should have been secured in a device, i.e. box, designed for hoisting... by a Qualified Rigger.**
2. While hauling gravel from a gravel pit an operator backed his truck into the loading area. He was backing up by using his rear view mirror. When he had completed backing up he looked forward and saw the victim lying on the ground. The wheels of the truck on the driver's side had run over him. **There were no back up alarms on the dump trucks nor use of a signalperson while trucks were being backed up.**

Falls:

1. Using an 8 ft. stepladder on a rough terrain fork truck platform to gain additional reach, a worker fell 30 ft. from the platform to the ground below. Employee was installing leaf guard on rain gutters. **No proper platform was used, no PFAS used, and a ladder should never be placed on a platform to gain additional height.**
2. An employee engaged in roofing activities was working on the commercial roof. The employee sat on a roof hole cover that was 22 gage steel and secured with eight screws. The cover did not support the weight of the employee causing the employee to fall through the cover approximately 50-foot to the concrete floor below. **Hole covers must be secured against displacement and able to withstand at least two times the minimum load.**

Caught between/crushed by:

1. During the process of installing and securing a 20,000 gallon water tank in an 11 foot deep trench an employee was standing next to the tank . A side of the excavation collapsed causing the tank to shift, crushing the employee between the side of the excavation and the tank. **Excavation was not properly sloped, shored or supported.**



Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Consultation, Education & Training Division
530 W. Allegan Street, Box 30643
Lansing, MI 48933

Attendance Record

Company: _____

Topic: Focus Four Fatalities in Construction

Trainer: _____

Date: _____

	Signature		Signature
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Comments: