



## ***Sunday Safety Moment***

*Volume - 1 Dec 2018 Issue - 1 Topic – Crush & Caught Between*

### **Welcome to our TPE Safety topic for this week**

#### **Struck By, Crush & Pinch Point, Caught Between Hazards**

Lets start with some definitions:

**Struck By** – to be hit by or come in contact with a moving object. This can be a tool, moving parts, vehicles, equipment, falling objects, etc

**Crush** – a force that causes compression of any body part that results in trauma or injury

**Pinch Point** – any location where a body part can get between two objects. Any place where equipment or tools are transmitting energy – there is a pinch point. There are Pinch Points are everywhere!

**Caught Between** – when any clothing or body part become lodge or entrapped between two objects. This can be between two pieces of equipment, between tools & equipment or between an object & the ground or a structure

A normal work day at TPE commonly involves handling or moving parts, tools or equipment weighing as little as a few pounds to perhaps as much as 20 tons or more. Whenever you work with or near moving parts, tools, or equipment, you must be aware of the hazards involved. Regardless of the size or weight of the moving materials, there is always a risk or potential to be caught in a pinch point, crushed or caught between two objects. These hazards are everywhere & each year approximately 125,000 such incidents occur in work places. The results can be as minor a first aid case or as serious as a disabling injury. Unfortunately, some incidents result in fatalities. OSHA statistics from 2016 show that of all construction & private industry fatalities – 9.4% were due to Struck By incidents & 7.3% were due to Caught Between incidents.

A majority of Struck By, Crush, Pinch & Caught Between incidents can be prevented just by staying alert & being aware of your surroundings. This is known as “situational awareness.” Here are just a few things you can do to improve your situational awareness & help protect yourself from potential injuries

**Plan your work.**

Consider potential hazards in advance & decide how to reduce or eliminate risk.

**Always stay alert to the activities that are going on around you.**

Don't walk into a work area without surveying the situation. Is there equipment operating? Are materials being moved? Is there any unsecured equipment or material that might move unexpectedly? **STAY FOCUSED ON THE JOB** and give it full attention. Don't daydream or become distracted by non-essential activities (cell phones, radios, visitors).

**Never position yourself under a suspended load.**

Don't stand or work under materials or equipment that has been raised on the forks of lift truck or hung from a crane. You could be crushed by a load lowered unexpectedly by equipment failure or an operator unaware of your presence.

**Never place yourself between two objects that have potential to move & trap or crush you.**

Pig traps & barrels must be secured by cribbing or chocks to prevent rolling or falling. Opening a closure door on an unsecured pig trap can cause the trap to roll. **NEVER** open a closure door before making certain the trap is properly secured.

Removing a valve or spool from a side outlet on a barrel will change balance point. **NEVER** remove valves, spools or attachments before making certain barrel is properly secured.

When using ratchets, pry bars, hammers, wrenches, etc, keep hands & fingers away from potential pinch points. If pushing on a wrench or pry bar, think of what will happen if bar or wrench unexpectedly swings free. Will you smash your hand or fingers against a near by object or structure? **BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN USING "HYTORQ" TOOLS!** If your fingers get caught between the Hytorq body & any other object there is potential for severe injury & possible amputation. **DO NOT** place yourself between an operating forklift & any structure or object. Even if the operator knows you are there, he make not be able to avoid striking you if his load or equipment does something unexpected.

These are just a few recommendations on how you can help protect yourself from potential injury from Struck By, Crush, Pinch & Caught Between incidents. I'm sure that you can probably think of others & I encourage you to do so & share your thoughts. Your comments & feedback are always appreciated.

Always think before you act! If you ever get involved in a situation where you have questions or concerns regarding safety – **YOU** have the authority to stop the work until any safety concern is resolved!

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