

	THE FATAL FOUR	Date:
	TOOLBOX / TAILGATE TALK	Presenter:

The “Fatal Four” Hazards in the Construction Industry

There is inherent risk construction workers face every day at work. Construction is a dangerous field full of hazards. Despite the wide-ranging hazards construction workers face, there are four types of hazards that are responsible for the majority of fatalities in the construction industry. These four types of hazards are falls, struck-by, caught-in between, and electrocution.

Falls in Construction

How many workers are injured in Canada annually due to fall from heights?

In Canada, **more than 40,000** workers get hurt each year because of fall accidents. Fall accidents represent a large percentage of “lost-time injuries” accepted by workers' compensation boards across Canada.

Electrocutions in Construction

Electrocutions followed falls in the cause of fatalities in the [construction](#) industry. There are multiple causes of electrocution fatalities. The common types of electrocution fatalities include direct contact with an energized powerline, direct contact with energized equipment, contact between a boom and energized powerline, damaged equipment, and indirect contact with an energized powerline.

Struck-By Incidents

Struck-by incidents are responsible for almost the same number of fatalities in the construction industry as electrocutions each year. There are many struck-by hazards on every construction site that can severely injure or kill workers on any given day. Common struck-by incidents include struck-by moving equipment, struck-by falling objects, and struck-by flying debris.



Caught-In/Between Incidents

The last of the fatal four hazards in the construction industry is caught-in/between incidents. OSHA defines caught-in/between hazards as injuries resulting from a person being squeezed, caught, crushed, pinched, or compressed between two or more objects, or between parts of an object. Two examples of caught-in/between incidents include excavation cave-ins and being pulled into moving equipment such as a conveyor.

- Which of the fatal four hazards should we be most concerned with here at our worksite?
- What are some safety measures we can take to eliminate or reduce the chance of injury related to the hazard?

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