

Patrick St. Peter & Sons

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors

P.O. Box 746, 539 Main Street
Caribou, Maine 04736
TEL. (207) 492-5921 FAX. (207) 498-2732
e-mail pspnsons@maine.rr.com

Caught Between or Crushing Hazards Written Safety Plan

Purpose:

Due to established hazards related to plumbing and heating work, the company requires the use of guidelines for Caught Between/Crushing accidents to prevent injuries to workers.

Responsibilities:

To ensure that the Company's policy for Caught Between/Crushing is fully implemented, responsibility is assigned to the following individuals:

Enforcement: front-line supervisors

Answering questions/coaching: front-line supervisors/safety manager

Authorizing of changes in the written policy: project/safety manager

New-employee and refresher training: safety manager/front-line supervisor

Hazard Identification:

Because in many cases, hazards related to plumbing and heating cannot be eliminated, the following exposures to potential injury can be anticipated:

HAZARD

Vehicles and heavy equipment

INJURY POTENTIAL

Have all workers exposed to this equipment wear heavily visible vests, and use spotters where heavy equipment must back into construction area.

Unstable stacks of material

Ensure all materials are stacked on solid, level blocking.

Cave-in

All excavation that workers must enter that are greater than 5' in depth shall be sloped to a 1 ½ to 1, or 34 degree angle. Where sloping is not feasible, shoring or trench boxes shall be used.

Company Standards and Procedures:

Due to reasonably expected hazards associated with plumbing and heating work, the following standards and procedures shall be followed by all employees:

1. Keep drivers in the cab and workers away from the dump trucks when dirt and other debris are loaded into them. Don't allow workers under any load and train them to stay clear of the backs of vehicles.
2. Train workers to stay clear of backing and turning vehicles and equipment with rotating cabs.
3. Be sure that all off-road equipment used on site is equipped with rollover protection.
4. Maintain back-up alarms for equipment with limited rear view or use someone to help guide them back.
5. Be sure that all vehicles have fully operational braking systems and brake lights.
6. Use seat belts when transporting workers in motor and construction vehicles.
7. Maintain at least a 10-foot clearance from overhead power lines when operation equipment.
8. Block up the raised bed when inspecting and repairing dump trucks.
9. Know the rated capacity of the crane and use accordingly.
10. Ensure the stability of the crane.
11. Use the tag line to control materials moved by a crane.
12. Verify experience or provide training to crane and heavy equipment operators.

****If the plumbers or laborers are involved in excavation, there are the guidelines to follow:**

1. Keep workers away from digging equipment and never allow workers in an excavation when equipment is in use.
2. Keep workers from getting between equipment in use and other obstacles and machinery that can cause crushing hazards
3. Keep equipment and the excavated dirt (spoils pile) back 2 feet from the edge of the excavation.
4. Have a competent person conduct daily inspections and correct and hazards before workers enter a trench or excavation.
5. Provide workers with a way to get out of a trench or excavation, such as ladders and ramps. They must be within 25 feet of the worker.
6. For excavations and utility trenches over 5 feet deep, either use shoring, shields (trench boxes), or benching or slope back the sides. Unless soil analysis has been completed, the earth's slope must be at least 1 ½ feet horizontal and 1 foot vertical.
7. Keep water out of the trenches with a pump or drainage system, and inspect the area for soil movement and potential cave-ins.

Foundations:

1. After the foundation walls are constructed, take special precautions to prevent injury from cave-ins in the area between the excavation wall and the foundation wall.
2. The depth of the foundation/basement trench cannot exceed 5 feet in depth unless sloping or shoring is provided as cave-in protection.
3. Plan the foundation trench work to minimize the number of workers in the trench and the length of time the spend there.
4. Inspect the trench regularly for changes in the stability of the earth (water, cracks, vibrations, spoils pile). Stop work if any potential for cave-in develops and fix the problem before work starts again.

Training:

Employees shall be trained in the policy caught between or crushing protections as follows:

1. At time of hire in the specific areas where caught between or crushing hazards will be encountered and how the employee is expected to protect themselves.
2. Annually on all potential caught between or crushing hazards, and all methods used to protect employees.

Enforcement policy:

When a worker is observed working in a manner that exposes them to caught between or crushing hazards, the following steps shall be taken by their immediate supervisor:

1. First occurrence – Verbal warning. With coaching on proper procedures to be followed. Note made in supervisor's daily log or job report.
2. Second occurrence – Written warning. Supervisor and employee sign the documented reprimand. A copy of the written warning is placed in the employee file.
3. Third occurrence – Written warning is completed and the employee is given 8 hours, or one full workday, off without pay.
4. Fourth occurrence – When an employee fails to use proper caught between or crushing protection procedures within 6 months of having been given time off without pay – the employee shall be terminated.

