

## **Top Five Hazards in the Construction Workplace**

Construction activities can be one of the most hazardous job sites for these top five hazards:

### **Working at Heights**

Whether on a swing stage, bosun chair, scaffold, ladder, scissor lift or boom, working at heights and falls are the number one cause of injuries on sites. Falls from these machines and equipment can severely injure or kill a worker. Employers must ensure certain workers complete a working at heights training program that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer. Only an approved training provider can deliver training for those workers.

### **Struck-By Hazards**

Struck-by injuries are produced by forcible contact or impact between the injured person and an object or piece of equipment. This could be mobile or suspended equipment, tools and debris that can cause injury. It is the Employer's obligation to provide workers with information to recognize common struck-by hazards at construction worksites so workers are trained to understand.

### **Confined Spaces**

Confined spaces are dynamic environments that need to be evaluated for safety. The space may be a silo, piece of equipment, boiler, crawl space/room or any space not meant for occupancy. Air quality and tight spaces can cause significant injury or death to an unsuspecting worker and those attempting rescue. Two conditions must be met in the definition of confined space, and the employer must determine whether any space meets the definition of a confined space.

### **Electrocutions**

Exposure to electricity is a major cause of death among construction workers. Among electricians, the most serious concern is working "live" or near live wires. Exposed wires on cords, tools missing or damaged casings, wet environments and bad weather can all lead to potential electrocutions. It is critical to de-energize and use lockout/tag out procedures to reduce the risk of injury. Among non-electricians, failure to avoid live overhead power lines and an apparent lack of basic electrical safety knowledge are the major causes.

### **Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD)**

Every day on construction sites, workers use muscles, tendons, ligaments and joints to lift, push/pull, carry, kneel, stand, walk, move and work in a variety of ways. However, sometimes these tasks can put too much demand on workers bodies, causing pain and discomfort. Strains, sprains, broken bones and other injuries will occur and Employers must take preventative measures to protect workers.

If you would like to book a no-cost 30 minute virtual consultation please use the link to schedule your session.

<https://sooleyssafetyservices.ca/services/ola/services/online-consultation>