

TOOLBOX TALK: LINE OF FIRE HAZARDS

Mining / Mobile Equipment / Material Handling

Date: _____ Location/Area: _____ Lead: _____

Crew/Shift: _____ Task/Job: _____

WHAT IS LINE OF FIRE

Being in a position where moving equipment, shifting material, gravity, or stored energy can strike you before you can react. If it can swing, roll, drop, snap, or release pressure, it has a line of fire.

COMMON MINING EXAMPLES

- Haul trucks, loaders, dozers, water trucks: blind spots, backing zones, swing radius.
- Working between equipment and a fixed object (berm, wall, highwall, stockpile, structure).
- Suspended or raised loads: crane lifts, forks/telehandler picks, elevated buckets/booms.
- Conveyors/crushers/screens: nip points, rollers, tail pulleys, pinch zones.
- Towing and recovery: winch lines, snatch straps, shackles, tow bars under tension.
- Hydraulics/air/water/grease: hoses and fittings can burst or whip.

HOW INJURIES OCCUR

- Struck-by moving equipment, rock, tools, or material that shifts or falls.
- Caught-between/crushed (pinned between machine and berm/wall, or two machines).
- Pinched hands/fingers during positioning, rigging, or handling components.
- Released energy: snapped chain, recoiling line, hose burst, stored pressure release.
- Run over/backed over due to blind spots, distraction, or assuming you were seen.

HOW TO PREVENT THEM

- Identify the danger zone BEFORE you start: What can move? Where will it go?
- Control the energy: lower loads, block/crib, chock wheels, set brakes, isolate/LOTO when required.
- Stay out of crush zones and swing radius. Never stand under suspended loads.
- Use spotters and positive communication. If you lose sight of someone: STOP.
- Use the right tools (tag lines, bars, push sticks). Keep hands out of pinch points.
- Keep an escape route. If anything changes (ground, load, visibility): STOP and reset.

Crew Discussion Questions

- 1) Where are the top three line-of-fire areas for today's work (specific locations)?
- 2) What task today has the highest struck-by or caught-between risk?
- 3) What is our rule when we lose visual contact with a spotter/pedestrian?
- 4) What controls are we using today (exclusion zone, spotter, chocks, cribbing, LOTO, tag lines)?
- 5) What is your personal stop-work trigger for line-of-fire hazards?

Attendance / Acknowledgement (sign-in)

By signing, I acknowledge I attended this talk and understand the controls discussed.

Name (Print)	Company/Dept	Signature/Initials	Time