



Line of Fire Hazards in the Workplace

What is the “Line of Fire”?

The “line of fire” refers to the path of a moving object or the area where a person could be struck, caught, or crushed. It is any position where your body is in danger of being hit by moving equipment, falling objects, stored energy, or tools in use. Many workplace injuries occur because workers unintentionally place themselves in harm’s way.

Common Line of Fire Hazards

- **Struck-by:** Working near moving vehicles, swinging loads, falling tools, or pressurized lines.
- **Caught-in/between:** Placing hands or body parts between moving parts, pinch points, or equipment.
- **Released energy:** Pressurized lines, springs, cables, or stored energy suddenly released.
- **Dropped objects:** Materials or tools falling from ladders, scaffolds, or overhead work areas.

How to Protect Yourself

- Always stay alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Never stand or walk under suspended loads.
- Keep clear of moving equipment and communicate with operators before approaching.
- Use barricades and warning signs to mark hazardous areas.
- Control stored energy by locking, blocking, or bleeding lines before working.
- Maintain good housekeeping to prevent slips, trips, and falling objects.
- Wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE) such as hard hats, safety glasses, gloves, and steel-toe boots.

Key Takeaway

Avoiding the line of fire means staying out of harm’s way, anticipating how equipment, materials, and energy could move, and taking steps to protect yourself and others. Most line of fire injuries are preventable when workers recognize the hazard potential and stay alert.

