

### *Struck By Accidents*

*Print Date: ICA News 10/21/2009*

Recently, a worker on a New York bridge project was outside of an aerial lift truck operating the lift controls when he was struck by the boom. He was subsequently pinned by the boom and was pronounced dead at the scene. Another worker in Illinois was killed while he was flagging on a jobsite and a dump truck backed over him. These types of accidents seem so easy to avoid, yet they continue to be one of the top killers of construction workers year after year.

There are a number of ways to help prevent these tragic accidents. Following are a few tips to consider:

- Rope off jobsite areas where equipment is being operated to prevent non-essential personnel from walking among the equipment.
- Rope off the swing area for rotating equipment that has an integral offset counterweight.
- Before operating equipment or trucks, walk around the equipment and look for people working in or near the equipment. Warn them of your plans to move it.
- Utilize spotters anytime you have equipment working in an area with people working on foot.
- When approaching equipment in operation, workers on foot should make eye contact with the equipment operators and stay in their field of vision.
- If you are operating equipment and a worker suddenly disappears from view, stop and make contact with your spotter to locate the individual. If there is no spotter, locate the individual before continuing.
- Workers on foot should understand what the equipment operators are doing and avoid coming into the equipment's active work area unless it is necessary.
- Require anyone working in or around moving equipment to wear high-visibility safety garments.
- Establish, implement and then follow internal traffic control plans. Limit the areas where workers and equipment work in close proximity.
- Train workers on foot to be aware of the blind spots on equipment, and teach them to move out of these areas.
- Limit the use of cell phones and radios in active areas, and consider directing people who must use a cell phone to safe areas.
- Set up internal roads so that people entering and exiting jobsite trailers are not stepping onto an active roadway.
- Set up and conspicuously identify crossing areas for workers on foot to cross internal traffic lanes.
- Create backing areas and limit foot traffic in those areas. In areas with foot traffic, advise workers to give the horn two short blasts before backing or when changing directions.

Most construction accidents can be prevented. The key is to work smart and work safely.

***Be Alert, Be Safe***



**Indiana Construction  
Association**

One North Capitol Avenue  
Suite 1000  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
Phone (317) 472-6777  
Fax (317) 472-6767

318 Main Street  
Suite 401  
Evansville, Indiana 47708  
Phone (812) 477-0881  
Fax (812) 421-5883

[inconstruction.org](http://inconstruction.org)



Quality People. Quality Projects.

Company Name  
Project #/Name

Date

Meeting Location

Person Conducting Meeting

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Items Discussed**

---

---

---

---

---

**Problem Areas or Concerns**

---

---

---

---

**Attendees**

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

**Comments**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---