

**Bi-Weekly Safety Tool Box Talks**  
**James Peterson Sons, Inc.**  
**JPS, Inc. Utility Division**  
**Buteyn-Peterson Construction Co., Inc.**  
August 2009

## Don't Get Hit or Squashed

Too many construction workers lose their lives in struck-by or caught-in-between accidents that are preventable. We've all read headlines about workers being killed when the unprotected excavation they were working in collapsed and crushed the life out of them. Or we've heard the sad stories of workers crushed when construction equipment backed over them. Don't become another construction accident story or statistic. Pay attention so that you aren't struck by heavy equipment or caught between a moving object and a hard place.

OSHA regulations state that all bi-directional earth-moving equipment must have a back-up alarm. Yes, that annoying "BEEP, BEEP, BEEP" attention-getter is for your protection. However, you may become so used to the sound that it stops getting your attention. This is a deadly mistake. The noise is designed to warn you that equipment is reversing in your vicinity. When you hear the back-up alarm, look up, check your surroundings, and get out of the way if necessary. Don't take chances with your life.

Back-up alarms are also found on many trucks that have their rear views obstructed. Flatbed trucks, cement mixers, and even garbage trucks will "beep" when they reverse. Don't assume the noise is far away enough for you to be safe. It could be the last assumption you ever make.

Another construction hazard involves placing yourself between a fixed object and a moving piece of equipment. Never put yourself in harm's way by standing, for instance,

between a backhoe's digging arm and a wall. One wrong swing by the operator could crush you. Another danger zone is being on the "traffic side" of a column, post, or bollard—where you could get squashed or pinned between the column and a forklift or other vehicle.

For the same reason, you should never stand in front of a load of reinforced concrete pipe that is being unloaded. Imagine: the driver frees the tie-down straps, the trailer is on a slight incline, and the pipe begins to roll off the truck trailer unexpectedly. Where will you go? You can probably imagine that concrete pipe landing on a worker is a horrific sight. The same hazards apply to a truckload of steel or sprinkler pipe. If you work around cranes, always use tag lines to guide loads; if you're close enough to use your hands, you're close enough to get crushed or pinned if the load moves unexpectedly.

Keep a safe distance from all heavy equipment. Assume that the operator cannot or did not see you. Make sure that you actually get the operator's attention before you cross in front of or behind any piece of equipment. Listen for that ever-present back-up alarm.

.....  
**SAFETY REMINDER**  
.....

**Pinch points don't have to be big and involve your whole body. There are plenty of opportunities to pinch or smash "just" a finger. Watch out for your fingers and toes.**

Safety Manual Reference: *Page 9 Para. 6.1 (6) Site Safety Rules*

I have read the above safety topic.

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

"Return after reading and signing to the office with your time card"