



Toolbox Talk

Topic: Line of Fire (Stored Energy)

‘Line of fire’ is a term that describes the path of a discharged object. In construction work, there are many objects that have the potential to create a line of fire exposure.

Awareness is the first line of defense. Perform a job site walk-down to identify the ‘line of fire’ area and always be aware of a change in condition that may create a line of fire exposure. Remind workers to stay clear of hazards by using flagging and barricades and safety tools like construction plans and daily job briefings.

Lifting/Hoisting

- Never walk under a suspended load.
- Communicate to other workers when entering a lifting/hoisting zone
- Balance the load prior to lifting.
- Rigging equipment shall never be loaded in excess of its maximum safe loading limit.

Objects with Fall/Roll Potential

- Not all objects may be overhead; be especially mindful of top-heavy items and items being transported by forklift or flatbed.
- Secure objects that can roll, such as tools, cylinders and poles.
- Secure rolling stock using approved binders; apply parking brakes or use chocks to prevent movement.

Pressurized Cylinders

- Always ensure cylinders are secured and tanks are upright with caps installed when not in use.
- When pressure is introduced into a cylinder regulator gauge, stand aside and avoid facing the front or back of the regulator gauge.

Tools/Electric

- Only trained or instructed individuals should change fittings on or make modifications to tools and electrical equipment.
- Stand aside when racking breakers into position in case of malfunction and breaker fragments.
- Stay clear of equipment when breakers are being closed remotely.

Vehicle/Heavy Equipment

- Use parking brakes and wheel chocks for any vehicle or equipment parked on an incline.
- When working near moving, heavy equipment such as line trucks and cranes remain in the operator’s full view. Obtain the operator’s attention prior to approaching equipment.
- Don’t stand behind a bucket truck when the boom is being moved or cradled.



- Look for pedestrian and vehicle traffic when positioning vehicles and equipment at a job site.

Overhead Work

- Establish a drop zone, an area below any work being performed aloft. Drop zone size depends on the work scope and potential for falling tools and equipment. Keep the drop zone clear of people.
- If work at the structure base is unavoidable, inform the worker above. Make sure work stops. Secure tools and equipment prior to working below.
- Follow drop tool prevention measures.
- Stay clear of conductors and equipment actively being worked. Never position yourself or vehicles under them.

