

Did you know that one in four “struck-by vehicle” deaths involve construction workers, which is more than any other occupation? Struck-by object is another leading cause of construction-related deaths. Approximately 75 percent of struck-by fatalities involve heavy equipment, such as trucks or cranes.

Safety and health programs must consider the many ways struck-by accidents can occur. These hazards cause the most struck-by injuries:

- Vehicles
- Falling/Flying Objects
- Masonry Wall Construction

If vehicle safety practices aren’t observed at your site, you risk being pinned between construction vehicles and walls, being struck by swinging backhoes, being crushed beneath overturned vehicles, and being struck by trucks or cars.

### **How to avoid vehicle hazards:**

Wear seat belts that meet OSHA standards [[29 CFR 1926.601\(b\)\(9\)](#)], except on equipment that’s designed only for standup operation or that has no [rollover protective structure](#).

- Check vehicles before each shift to ensure all parts and accessories are in safe operating condition.
- Don’t drive a vehicle in reverse gear with an obstructed rear view unless it has an audible reverse alarm or another worker signals that it’s safe to do so.
- Only drive vehicles or equipment on roadways or grades that are safely constructed and maintained.
- Be sure that you and all other personnel are in the clear before using dumping or lifting devices.
- Lower or block bulldozer and scraper blades, end-loader buckets, dump bodies, etc., when not in use, and leave all controls in neutral position.
- Set parking brakes when vehicles and equipment are parked and chock the wheels if on an incline.
- Ensure all vehicles have adequate braking systems and other safety devices.
- Ensure haulage vehicles that are loaded by cranes, power shovels, loaders etc., have a cab shield or canopy that protects the driver from falling materials.
- Don’t exceed a vehicle’s rated load or lift capacity.
- Don’t carry other people unless there’s a safe place to ride.
- Use traffic signs, barricades, or flaggers when construction takes place near public roadways.
- Require all workers to wear warning clothing, such as red or orange vests. Vests should also be made of reflective material if worn for night work.

\* Source material taken from [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).