



# Tailgate Safety Training for Landscaping and Horticultural Services

Agricultural Safety Program, 590 Woody Hayes Drive, Columbus, OH 43210

## Struck-By Accidents

**Objective: Prevent struck-by accidents.**

### *How to Use This Module*

Poor housekeeping and messy work areas contribute to struck-by accidents. For this module:

- Read the information below on potential hazards and how to avoid them.
- Ask your supervisor to demonstrate the right method to handle materials.
- With other workers, brainstorm injuries that could occur as a result of flying or falling objects or moving vehicles.
- With other workers, brainstorm a specific list of struck-by hazards in your workplace.
- With other workers, brainstorm ways to eliminate or lessen those hazards.
- Review the important points.
- Take the True/False quiz to check your learning.

## Background

Struck-by accidents are those where an object hits the worker. These accidents are frequently related to material handling and housekeeping. Poorly stacked material may fall or slide. Objects blocking aisles could cause bumps or tripping. Overhead storage shelves, racks, hangers, aisles, passageways, and doors can be a source of danger. Careless work habits can make hazards worse.

Struck-by accidents can also occur during tree trimming, pruning, and felling. The tree or tree limbs can fall and strike workers on the ground or in the tree. Bent limbs can also strike workers when the limb is released and springs back.

## Potential Struck-By Accident Hazards

- Tools or loose parts left on window ledges, shelves, cranes, or working platforms.
- Objects leaning against walls, racks, posts, or equipment.
- Inadequate guarding on belts or no side barriers on conveyors traveling from one level to another.
- Unmarked low beams or pipes.

- No screen guard on equipment or poor or incomplete screening to guard against objects flying off the equipment.
- Weak overhead supports or poor stacking of materials.

## Eliminate Hazards

- Don't leave tools or loose parts on window ledges, shelves, cranes, or working platforms. If you see any left loose, report them or remove them.
- Leave guards or screens in place on equipment as it was manufactured.
- Mark low beams, pipes, and ceilings with proper *Low Clearance — Caution* signs.
- Stack and store objects properly.
- If there is a potential danger from overhead hazards, wear an approved hard hat or bump hat. For more details, refer to the Tailgate Safety Training module *Protecting the Head*.
- Use falling object protective structures (FOPS) on equipment.
- Be alert and report all hazards.

## Aisles and Doors

- Keep aisles and passageways clear and well marked.
- Allow safe aisle and door clearance to prevent getting caught or knocking down material.
- If a door swings out into a hallway, mark the door swing on the floor.
- Never stand in front of a windowless, swinging door.
- Before working near a door, post a warning sign or prop the door open. This is especially important if working from a ladder.
- Do not push a door open rapidly or forcefully. Someone may be on the other side.
- When approaching double doors, follow signs indicating which door to use.

## Pay Attention

- Watch where you are going.
- Do not get distracted by conversations.
- Approach a corner or intersection from the center of the hall. Plan to walk to the right, reducing the chance of oncoming collisions.

## Review These Important Points

- Wear a hard hat or bump hat if necessary for the job.
- Watch for falling objects or items that block aisles.
- Keep all screens and guards in place.
- Use safe storage and handling procedures.

## About These Modules

The author team for the training modules in the landscape and horticultural tailgate training series includes Dee Jepsen, Program Director, Agricultural Safety and Health, Ohio State University Extension; Michael Wonacott, Research Specialist, Vocational Education; Peter Ling, Greenhouse Specialist; and Thomas Bean, Agricultural Safety Specialist. Modules were developed with funding from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Grant Number 46E3-HT09.

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Answer Key: 1 = F, 2 = F, 3 = F, 4 = T, 5 = T.

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*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

### True or False?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. It is acceptable to remove machine guards if they are in the way.                    | T | F |
| 2. Objects leaning against walls, racks, posts, or equipment pose no potential hazards. | T | F |
| 3. Tree trimming is not a source of struck-by accidents.                                | T | F |
| 4. Do not leave tools or loose parts on window ledges or other working areas.           | T | F |
| 5. Equipment falling object protective structures (FOPS) help reduce hazards.           | T | F |