

What is a Caught-in/Crushed-by Injury?

When a part of the body is caught between two objects that are being pushed together by high pressure, the resulting squeeze is referred to as a caught-in injury. A crushed-by injury is injury by an object that causes compression to the body.

Damages that Occur

In a crushed-by injury, there is often serious damage below the skin - including the tissues, organs, muscles and bones - and a much greater chance for infection in the damaged tissues and muscles. The force of the impact can also cause serious damage to the skin, in some cases completely removing layers and leaving the wound exposed to infection and deformity. Infection can lead to amputation in extreme cases.

A caught-in/crushed-by injury will often cut off the flow of blood in the damaged limb. In many cases of crushed-by injuries, "Compartment Syndrome" will take place. When the muscles and tissues are deprived of blood for too long after a crushed-by injury accident occurs, there is a strong chance that the nerves will become severely damaged and the victim may experience:

- Bleeding
- Numbness
- Muscle death
- Possible paralysis

Examples of Caught-in/Crushed-by Events

- Being pulled into or caught-in machinery and equipment (including strangulation from clothing caught-in running machinery and equipment)
- Being compressed or crushed between a stack of materials; rolling, sliding, or shifting objects; between a truck/vehicle frame and a piece of equipment that is lowering
- Cave-ins (trenching/ditches)

How these Accidents Occur

- Machinery not properly guarded or de-energized (locked-out/tagged out) during maintenance or repair
- Power tools not properly guarded
- Clothing or parts of body trapped in machines
- Workers that struck by moving equipment
- Workers ejected from equipment
- Workers trapped or crushed under heavy equipment, materials, or objects

How to Prevent Caught-in/Crushed-by Accidents

- Use machinery that is properly guarded. Never remove a safety guard when a tool is being used
- Avoid wearing loose clothing or jewelry that can be caught-in moving parts of machines
- Ensure that equipment is de-energized (locked out) and cannot be started accidentally
- Protect yourself from being pinned between equipment, materials, or other objects
- Never place yourself between an immovable structure and a vehicle or stacked materials
- Secure all loads carried by equipment. Ensure the loads are stable
- Stay out of the swing radius of all equipment
- Never walk under suspended loads
- Always make contact with equipment operators before walking around moving equipment
- Stack materials securely to prevent sliding, falling or collapsing

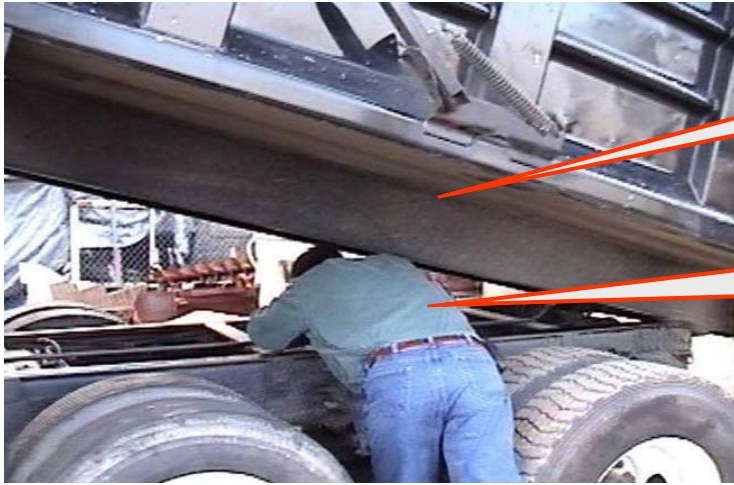


No protective system in this excavation.

Potential crushing hazard from overhead boulder.



Gloves, long sleeve shirts, jewelry, or loose fitting clothing can be hazardous if caught in moving parts.



Truck box not blocked

Do not work between the frame and dump box of a dump truck