

# LOSS CONTROL NEWSLETTER

November 2019



**Auto-Owners**  
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## Struck-By Hazards

Last month we took a look at one of the construction industry's "Fatal Four" – caught-in hazards. In this issue, we focus on struck-by hazards. The most common struck-by hazards involve:

### Vehicles

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 75% of deaths from struck-by incidents involve heavy equipment. If you work around heavy equipment, you are at risk of being struck by moving objects, such as a backhoe arm, or becoming pinned against an immovable object, like a wall. Here are ways to avoid these hazards:

- Inspect all vehicles before operating them; only drive a vehicle that is in good working condition and wear a seatbelt.
- Always use parking brakes when parked. When parked on an incline, also chock the wheels.
- To prevent a vehicle from rolling over, only drive on roads or grades that are properly maintained. Excavations should be properly barricaded to prevent a vehicle from falling in.
- When backing up a vehicle, if you can't see behind the vehicle, make sure there is an audible reverse alarm. Another worker, standing at a safe distance, should signal that it is safe to move.
- Make sure no one is in the area where you will use dumping or lifting devices, and never

exceed a vehicle's rated load or lift capacity.

- Never operate equipment if you are not trained and certified to do so.

### Falling/Flying Objects

Falling objects are common at construction sites, especially beneath cranes, scaffolds and where work is being performed overhead. You may also be struck by a flying object if activity causes an object to become airborne, such as when using tools and machines or compressed air. To reduce the risk of injury:

- Wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Head protection, such as a hard hat, should be worn if there is risk of falling objects. Safety goggles and face shields should be worn when working around tools or machines that may produce flying particles.
- When working around cranes and hoists, don't work underneath loads. Inspect the equipment before use and do not exceed the lifting capacity.
- When working at height, secure objects to prevent them from falling. To prevent or deflect falling objects, use toeboards, screens, nets or canopies.

*continued on page 2*



## Struck-By Hazards continued

### Masonry Wall Construction

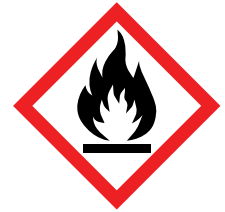
Constructing concrete or masonry walls presents struck-by hazards, especially when lifting equipment places slabs or when shoring is required. To stay safe:

- Never exceed the lift capacity for equipment.
- Shore or brace structures until permanent supporting structures are in place or concrete has been tested to ensure that it can hold the weight.
- Use an automatic holding device to support forms in case of lifting mechanism failure.
- To prevent unrolled wire mesh from recoiling, secure the ends or turn the roll over.

*If you have any questions or need assistance regarding workplace safety, please contact your independent insurance agent or the Auto-Owners Loss Control Helpline at 855.586.5388, or send an email to LossControlSupport@aoin.com.*

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## Hazard Labels: Flame Pictogram



If you work with chemicals, it is important to know how to properly read the labels on the containers and understand what the symbols mean. Labels provide important information about the chemicals you might be exposed to while doing your job – so pay attention to them. Understanding and using information about the chemicals you work with can lower your risk of injury.

A container label may have one or more pictograms, which are meant to help you quickly identify a chemical's hazards. There are nine different pictograms, each representing a different hazard. The information below gives details about the flame pictogram.

**Hazards:** The flame pictogram is a symbol with an image of black fire with a line underneath it on a white background framed by a red diamond (see above). If you see this pictogram on a chemical label affixed to a container, it means that the chemical inside is flammable. It may also mean that the substance is pyrophoric, meaning it may ignite shortly after coming in contact with air or that it may gradually produce heat when mixed with air.

This pictogram is also used for substances that may become spontaneously flammable or emit flammable gases after interacting with water. Or substances that are self-reactive or unstable, or organic peroxides capable of exploding or burning rapidly.

**Handling:** All substances labeled with the flame pictogram have the potential to cause a fire. So, when you see this image, be cautious and accurate, which includes following the precautionary statements on the label. More specific information about the hazards of a chemical can be found in the hazard statement on the label and in the safety data sheet (SDS) for the chemical.

The SDS will also give you information on what personal protective equipment (PPE) to use; what to do if you or a coworker are exposed to the chemical; how to safely handle, store and dispose of the chemical; and how to handle leaks or accidental releases.

**Storing:** You should always ensure that the containers storing chemicals are properly closed and labeled. Store containers of flammable substances in cool, well-ventilated areas; away from any heat or other sources of ignition; and segregated from incompatible substances, such as oxidizing agents. Storage requirements can differ depending on the chemical, so check the SDS for storage instructions.