

Safety Flash: OSHA eTOOL

NUCA of Indiana has recently added a link to the www.nucaofindiana.com website on the Safety Training and Resources page called “OSHA eTools”. This is a link provided by the U.S. Department of Labor that provides explanation on OSHA standards, “real life” cases, and other preventative information on what to do and what not to do with regard to the top 4 reasons for construction fatalities: Struck bys, Electrocution, Falls, and Trenching and Excavation accidents.

NUCA of Indiana encourages you to visit this site and use it as an educational component for your weekly tool box talks, to post in plain view for employees to read, and to assist with the development of or the continual improvements to your company’s safety program.

This site includes subsections of each of the main four categories listed above. Here is an example of a section and subsections:

- [Trenching and Excavation](#)
 - [No Protective System](#)
 - [Deaths Due to No Protective System](#)
 - [Failure to Inspect Trench and Protective Systems](#)
 - [Guide for Daily Inspection of Trenches and Excavations](#)
 - [Deaths Due to No Trench and Protective System Inspection](#)
 - [Unsafe Spoil-Pile Placement](#)
 - [Deaths Due to Unsafe Spoil-Pile Placement](#)
 - [Unsafe Access/Egress](#)
- [Deaths Due to Unsafe Access/Egress](#)

Innocent Workplace Activities Can Have Deadly Consequences

The following Case Reports of vehicle accidents investigated by OSHA illustrate how seemingly innocent workplace activities can have deadly consequences.

- An employee was operating a bulldozer at the top edge of a sloped drainage ditch. The bulldozer began to slide down the side of the snow and ice covered excavation, tipped over on its side, and pinned the operator under the roll bars. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt.
- A contractor was operating a backhoe when an employee attempted to walk between the swinging superstructure of the backhoe and a concrete wall. As the employee approached from the operator's blind side, the superstructure hit the victim, crushing him against the wall. Employees had not been trained in safe work practices, and no barricades had been erected to prevent employee access to a hazardous area.

(information provided by U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA)