

Struck-bys:

A leading cause of injury



Most of us hear a lot about the dangers of falls and how to prevent them—that’s because falls have consistently been a major cause of injury in Ontario. But in recent years, struck-by injuries have become a close second to falls, even though we don’t hear about them nearly as often. That’s why many of the articles in this issue of *IHSA.ca Magazine* focus on the increasing problem of struck-by injuries and ways to prevent them.

“Struck-by” is the term that Ontario’s prevention system uses for the various injuries that occur when workers are hit—or struck—by tools, materials, equipment, or vehicles. Just like falls, struck-by is a leading cause of injury in the industries that IHSA serves.

Between 2008 and 2012, 9,139 workers were injured when something hit them. At least 20 of these incidents were fatal, and 606 resulted in a critical injury. Since 2008, we’ve seen an encouraging downward trend in struck-by injuries; however, there was a slight increase from 2011 to 2012.

Most of these injuries occurred when a worker was struck by an object, such as a piece of falling material or equipment. It is also common for workers who slip or fall to be struck by the tools or materials in their hands.

Struck-by injuries are a cause for concern in all industries. But among IHSA’s rate groups, most of them happen in General Trucking and Homebuilding. To address some of the main causes, this magazine has articles on reversing vehicles, transportation hazards, nail gun safety, and falling objects. Struck-by injuries are also a significant problem in warehousing and lumber supply yards—that’s why you’ll see an article on safe stacking and storage. When a worker is hit by something, the part of the body that’s injured most often is the eyes. So we’ve included an article on the importance of eye protection.

Read on to learn more about the causes and situations that lead to struck-by injuries and how to prevent them. You can also visit ihsa.ca/struck-bys for free tools, resources, posters, and much more.