

SUBPART R - INJURY PREVENTION IN STEEL ERECTION SAFETY



Good morning, everyone:

Today, our focal point is the pivotal arena of Steel Erection Safety. It's startling to note that out of approximately 89,000 Iron workers in the U.S., we witness around 1,300 injury-related incidents and an unfortunate count of 36 fatalities annually. Although these figures show progress, there's a significant scope for enhancement.

Prevalent Injuries Among Iron Workers:

1. **Falls, Slips, and Trips:** A significant number of injuries in our domain result from falls from elevated platforms or surfaces.
2. **Impalement Risks:** Hazards such as exposed rebar, T-posts, forklift tines, and protruding bolts pose impalement threats.
3. **Cuts and Lacerations:** Due to sharp edges on metals and decking materials.
4. **Caught-in/Between Injuries:** Machinery like forklifts, front-end loaders, skid-steer loaders, and objects in motion from cranes can result in severe crush injuries.

Burns: Engaging in hot work activities often poses burn risks.

Muscle Strains: Often arise from the need to lift or manipulate heavy objects.

Safety First: Preventive Measures

Preventing Falls:

- Always be conscious of your environment.
- Understand inherent risks associated with heights.
- Utilize guardrail systems, fall prevention, or fall arrest systems.

Mitigating Slips and Trips:

- Adhere to excellent housekeeping standards.
- Ensure cords, welding leads, and other trip hazards are clear from pathways.
- Address spills promptly and maintain clutter-free zones.

Countering Impalement Dangers:

- Cover rebar and T-posts consistently.
- Use caps and ensure they're in good condition.
- Adopt fall prevention strategies to avoid landing on these hazards.

Reducing Cuts:

- Always wear the recommended PPE, including gloves and face shields.
- Even minor cuts should be cleaned and covered to ward off infections.

Avoiding Caught-in/Between Incidents:

- Ensure equipment has functional backup alarms and is visibly marked.
- Always be alert about potential pinch points and adopt measures to sidestep them.

Steering Clear of Burns:

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- Use appropriate PPE.
- Stay aware of areas where hot work is being performed.

Minimizing Muscle Injuries:

- Use ergonomic lifting techniques.
- Engage in team lifts or use machinery assistance wherever feasible.
- Maintain proper posture, avoid twisting when lifting, and ensure you lift within your body frame.

Safety is not just a word, but a commitment we make every day to ourselves and our colleagues. Let's work together to make these numbers decline and ensure a safe environment for all.

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Name (Print)

Signature
