TOOLBOX TALKS

Struck-by Toolbox Talk # 2
Struck-by Incident

Incident: In January 2015, an employee working in a trench was struck-by an excavator bucket, which was removing soil from the excavation, resulting in a broken hip. The employee was severely injured and did not return to work for 30 months.

What could have been done to prevent this incident?

1. Before beginning trenching or excavation operations, a job hazard analysis (JHA) should be prepared and reviewed by all involved in the operation.
2. Daily huddles should be conducted every day to ensure everyone understands where and how the work is taking place.
3. Workers should be trained to stand clear of bucket work, at a distance where the bucket cannot accidently strike the worker.
4. Operators should be trained not to move the bucket if a worker is inside the swing radius of the bucket.
5. If something changes from the plan, stop work and revise and review the plan with the workers involved.
6. Ensure workers working around heavy equipment are wearing high visibility, fluorescent outerwear.
7. Workers should stay out of the blind spots of a machine, and in a place where they can easily make eye contact with the operator before entering the bucket swing radius.
8. All workers should be trained on working around heavy equipment.
9. All workers operating machinery should be trained on the specific machine on which they are working.
10. Stay alert when working around heavy equipment!

Discussion: Is heavy equipment being used at this site? Have there been any close calls or actual incidents at this site? What are we doing at this site to prevent struck-by incidents?