

Line of Fire hazards refer to situations where workers are at risk of being directly in the path of moving objects, hazardous energy, or equipment that could cause injury.

If a worker is in the line of fire, it means they are in the path where they could be injured due to moving objects or the unexpected release of energy.

Being in the line of fire doesn't necessarily mean someone will definitely be injured, but it means that if they or someone else isn't paying attention, or if there is a misfire or malfunction, they are in the path of that hazard and could be seriously injured or killed.



There are three main categories of line of fire hazards. When thinking about potential line of fire hazards, this is a good way to remember them.

1. **Object in Motion**: Injuries occur from objects moving towards a worker, including rolling, sliding, falling, or swinging objects
2. **Potential Energy**: Hazards involving the unexpected release of stored energy, such as a snapped tensioned cable or a burst pipe
3. **Equipment Malfunction**: Situations where equipment failure could lead to components being ejected towards a worker unexpectedly

Examples of being in the line of fire include:

- standing beneath suspended loads
- walking in front of or behind moving equipment
- being near pressurized lines that could rupture
- working in front of someone using a nail gun
- positioned near doors that could swing outward
- using a grinding wheel without a proper guard
- repairing machinery that is not locked out properly
- putting your hands in or near a tool or machine's point of operation



- Conduct pre-operation checks on equipment to ensure all safety features are engaged. Do not disable or remove protective shields or machine guards.
- Secure loose materials that might shift, drop, or fall.
- Communicate clearly with coworkers, especially when moving heavy loads or operating machinery.
- Add toe boards on elevated work platforms to prevent tools and materials from falling into the area below.
- Use taglines properly when positioning loads lifted by a crane.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and the operations in your vicinity.
- Observe any barriers and guards that are set up as physical shields from potential line of fire hazards.
- Wear required personal protective equipment (PPE) – it is your last line of defense against an unexpected line of fire hazard.
- Report line of fire hazards including unsafe conditions, malfunctioning tools, missing guards, and near misses.

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