



## Line of Fire

Our Field Level Hazard Assessment (FLHA) card mentions “Working in Line of Fire” as a potential hazard but what exactly does that mean? It is important to understand what the “line of fire” is and how to avoid being in it to prevent injuries.

## What is the “Line of Fire”?

“Line of fire” is a military term that describes the path of a discharged missile or firearm. It’s the path an object will travel (being in harm’s way).

Line of fire injuries occur when the path of a moving object or the release of hazardous energy intersects with an individual’s body.

## Categories of Line of Fire

Line of fire incidents often fall under three (3) major categories:

1. Caught in or between
2. Struck by
3. Released energy

### Caught in or between examples:

- A worker is standing between a wall and a suspended piece of equipment being moved into place. The piece of equipment is moved too quickly and the worker is pinned against the wall between the equipment.
- A worker placing his/her hand too close to a rotating gear and the hand is pulled into the gear.



### Struck by examples:

- Pedestrian Mobile Interface: a worker struck by a forklift or vehicle.
- An object falling from a higher level striking a worker below.



### Released energy examples:

- A pipe releasing hot steam from a valve.
- A flame shooting out of a malfunctioning engine.



## Other Examples of Line of Fire Hazards

- Electric hand tools that could kick back if they jam or catch.
- Torque wrenches or other levers used to apply force.
- Chains or slings under tension.
- Objects with fall or tip potential: not all objects may be overhead; be especially mindful of top-heavy items and items being transported by forklift or flatbed.
- Objects with roll potential (cylinders, poles, mobile equipment, vehicles).
- Pressurized cylinders and lines.
- Fluids (hydraulic, air, water), e.g. when a valve is opened, or a fitting is loosened.
- High-pressure hydraulic tools.
- Electrical equipment.
- Spring-loaded devices.
- Shards flying when materials are hit or cut, or separate from a tool, machine or equipment.

## Avoiding Incidents

- Look for hazards before starting work and identify line of fire hazards on your FLHA cards.
- Bring line of fire hazards to the attention of your Supervisor (eliminate/control where possible).
- Be mindful of body position and what’s going on around you (and the associated hazards).
- Be aware of equipment and work situations, especially where stored energy may be present.
- Ask yourself: What can hurt me while I’m doing this task?

## Discussion Points

1. What are some examples of being in the line of fire here at our site?
2. How can we reduce the chances that we are involved in a line of fire incident here?