

The theme this month is **Staying Safely out of the Line of Fire.**

It is important to understand what the “line of fire” is and how to avoid being in it to avoid injuries in the workplace. What is line of fire? A simple definition is being in harm’s way.

Staying Safely out of the Line of Fire

In the manufacturing process of plastic pipe there are many areas where an employee can place themselves in harm’s way. Two examples are listed below:

- **Caught-in or between**- An employee is standing between the pipe rack and dump table in the packaging area. The next pipe cuts and falls to the dump table pinning the employee between the pipe and table.
- **Struck-by**- An employee is packaging a conduit reel when the pipe end flips up and over on the last wrap striking the employee standing behind the reel that was waiting to tie off the conduit pipe.



Engineering controls should be considered as the next best choice in protecting yourself from injury if elimination of the hazard cannot be achieved. Some engineering controls that could protect you from line of fire incidents include physical barriers and guarding around moving parts. There are many other possible engineering controls that could be used depending on the specific hazard.

Ultimately, it is important to decrease your chance of being a victim of line of fire injuries by not putting yourself in harm’s way in the first place. Understand the work tasks that are going on around you and the associated hazards. Ask yourself what is the worst that can happen or what will happen if a certain safeguard fails. Recognize the hazards of your work and act accordingly

Links to videos and training for reference:

<https://www.safetytalkideas.com/safetytalks/line-fire-hazards/>

<https://www.isabuilder.com/resources/line-of-fire-safety.php>

Best Practices: JSA (Job Safety Analysis)

Line of fire hazards should be discussed and evaluated during the preparation of your Job Safety Analysis (JSA).

Not familiar with how to do a JSA? It can be as simple as three steps:

1. Break the job down into specific tasks.
2. Determine hazards and risk present in each task
3. Identify preventative controls and residual risk

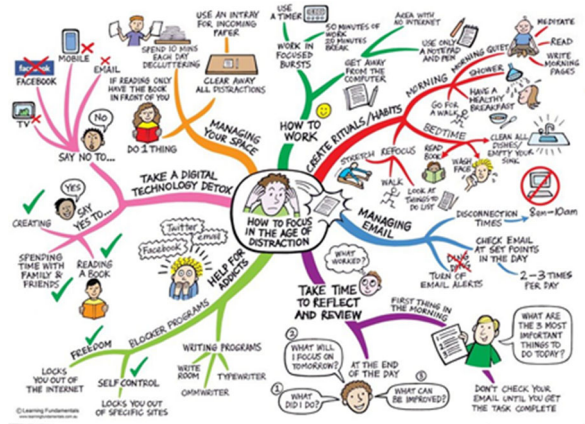
Job Safety Analysis is likely to result in fewer worker injuries and illnesses; safer, more effective work methods; reduced workers’ compensation costs; and increased worker productivity.

SAFETY BULLETIN – APRIL 2021

Safety Minute of the Month: Avoiding Distraction

Staying alert and aware of your surroundings will help keep you safe and out of the Line of Fire.

- Be sure to look around your area of work for potential hazards and eliminate them where possible.
- Avoid allergy and other medications that may make you drowsy and get a proper night's rest to maintain alertness on the job and the task at hand.
- Stay off your cell phone while at work.
- Take breaks



Reminder - Recordable Tracking and Sharing of Corrective Actions:

PPI is encouraging your company to participate in this monthly report. Background on this process and the template are attached for your reference. Questions should be directed to David Fink at dfink@plasticpipe.org. We look forward to your company's participation so that together we can support each other in continuous improvement of our safety performance.

If you know of others at your company that would benefit from receiving this bulletin, please email there contact information to David Fink at dfink@plasticpipe.org. Stay Safe!