

# Use Your EYES (Evaluate Your Entire Surroundings)

*Excerpted from OSHA Region 7 brochure "Informational Guide for Struck-by Accidents"*

Employers must evaluate whether their employees are at risk for struck-by accidents\* by vehicles or other mobile equipment. From 2008-2013, 37 employees in OSHA Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska) died as a result of struck-by vehicle accidents. For example, a forklift driver moving goods drove off a dock platform, attempted to jump from the equipment, and was struck.

Accidents occur when equipment operators:

- Are not familiar with the equipment's capabilities and limitations
- Don't do a proper preoperational examination
- Do not notice a person who is in the vehicle's path
- Are not aware of road conditions (soft shoulders, ice, cracks)
- Are driving too fast



Employers and their employees should conduct workplace risk assessments to identify hazards and prevent accidents. OSHA recommends using these steps:

1. **Recognize** the hazards – Where might the accident happen?
2. **Identify** who is at risk – how might they be harmed?
3. **Assess** risk- Are existing precautions adequate or more are needed
4. **Control** hazard –For example, decide not to operate the equipment
5. **Review** the risk assessment periodically and if circumstances change.

OSHA Region VII encourages employers to train their employees on these hazards and give them strategies to avoid struck-by accidents. A systematic risk assessment saves time, money, and lives.

*\*injuries and fatalities caused by forklifts, vehicles and other powered industrial equipment*