

Montana agriculture

Montana's agriculture covers over 58 million acres of farmland and includes more than 24,000 farms and ranches. While this industry is essential, it also comes with many risks. Agricultural workers often operate heavy machinery, work on uneven terrain, handle animals and face extreme weather. One of the major hazards faced by agricultural workers is being struck by objects, equipment or animals. In the past five years, the agricultural industry reported 322 struck-by injuries to Montana State Fund with a total cost of \$6,599,513.

What is a struck by hazard?

Struck by injuries are produced by forcible contact or impact between the injured person and an object or piece of equipment. Struck by objects can resemble caught in or between hazards. Struck by hazards have four categories: flying object, falling object, swinging object or rolling object.

Hazard categories

• Flying Objects

- Flying object exists when something has been thrown, hurled or is being propelled across space. It can include instances when a piece of material separates from a tool, machine or other equipment, striking a worker.

• Falling Object

- When the source of injury is falling from an elevation to a lower level including instances where the injured person is crushed, pinned, or caught under a falling object.

• Swinging Object

- When materials are mechanically lifted, they have the potential to swing and strike workers. As the load is lifted, the materials may swing, twist or turn. This movement can catch workers by surprise and can be hit by the swinging load. Environmental conditions such as wind can cause an additional hazard.

• Rolling Object

- Struck-by rolling object is when an object is rolling, moving or sliding on the same level which the worker is located. Includes instances when a worker is struck or run over by moving equipment/vehicles without being caught under it.

Protect yourself

- Stay away from equipment that is operating
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Stay clear of lifted loads and never work under a suspended load
- Be aware of swing radius of equipment wear seat belts when provided

