Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site. For additional Toolbox Talks, please visit SAFETY.CAT.COM™.

TOPIC: The Top Four Construction Hazards

Falls
– Wear and use personal fall-arrest equipment when working in elevated locations
– Install and maintain perimeter protection
– Use ladders and scaffolds safely

Crushing Accidents
– Never position yourself between a moving object and a fixed one
– Always wear high-visibility clothes near equipment and vehicles

Trench Failures
– Never enter an unprotected trench or excavation five feet deep or deeper without an adequate protective system in place. (Some trenches under five feet deep may also need such a system.)
– Make sure the trench or excavation is protected either by sloping, shoring, benching, or trench shield systems

Electrocutions
– Locate and identify utilities before starting work.
– Look for overhead power lines when operating any equipment.
– Maintain a safe distance from power lines; learn the safe distance requirements.
– Do not operate portable electric tools unless they are grounded or double insulated.
– Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) for protection.
– Be alert to electrical hazards when working with ladders, scaffolds, or other platforms.