



# Hazard Alerts



July 2020



The focus of this month's safety blast will be hazard alerts. It is recommended to share this information with your crews if the hazard applies to your company operations. Learning from past mistakes is a valuable tool for any safety program.

## Potential Hazards:

- ✓ Unintended Release of Equipment Buckets from Quick-Coupler Systems
- ✓ Cutting Drums using Hot Work Methods
- ✓ Extension Ladders
- ✓ Trenching & Excavation

### UNINTENDED RELEASE OF EQUIPMENT BUCKETS FROM QUICK-COUPLER SYSTEMS



Some modern equipment utilizes quick coupling devices that, if not properly secured, can lead to the bucket falling off while in use. When the coupling devices are not adequately secured, the equipment buckets can fall on workers and cause severe injuries or even death. If your equipment utilizes quick coupler systems, it is essential to develop safety protocols for operators, consider installing locking pins to prevent unintended releases, and require operators to inspect the attachment visually. The unexpected release of the equipment bucket is a preventable incident if the worker takes appropriate actions.

[🔗 OSHA Safety Tips](#)



### CUTTING DRUMS USING HOT WORK METHODS

Cutting old drums using a hot work method such as with a torch or grinder has the potential to cause serious injuries or even death. Due to the potential hazards surrounding cutting old drums, it is strongly recommended to AVOID performing this task and have the drums disposed of by a vendor that will pick them up at your facility. Most employers commonly use empty drums; it is crucial to address this hazard with your employees, especially those that work in the mechanic's / maintenance shop areas. Use the link below to learn more about a tragic fatality investigation of a farm mechanic that died after a torch cutting explosion.

[🔗 Fatality Investigation Report](#)

### EXTENSION LADDERS



Thousands of severe fall incidents can be prevented by following these simple steps when using an extension ladder.

1. Ensure the ladder extends 3 feet higher than the area being accessed by the ladder.
2. Secure or tie off the top of the ladder to prevent it from moving.
3. Secure or cleat the bottom of the ladder to prevent it from "kicking out".

[🔗 Ladder Safety Graphic](#)



### TRENCHING & EXCAVATION

One cubic yard of dirt can weigh more than 3,000 lbs, which is more than enough to crush a human being. From 2000 - 2009, 350 workers died in trenching or excavation cave-ins, which is an average of 35 fatalities per year. These fatalities are PREVENTABLE; please review these resources and conduct training with your employees.

#### Five Safety Tips

1. Ensure there is a safe way to enter and exit.
2. Trenches must have cave-in protection.
3. Keep all materials and equipment at least 2 feet away from the edge.
4. Look for standing water or other hazards.
5. Never enter a trench unless it is properly protected.

[🔗 NIOSH Safety Tips](#)



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