

# Don't Get Caught In The **CRUSH ZONE**

## Working Around Raised Components of Vehicles – Tool Box Talks

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PRESENTED: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /2009

Many duties of Public Works' employees put them in proximity of components of vehicles which are raised when conducting normal operations, service or maintenance, and extraordinary circumstances. Workers must be constantly alert for these conditions and keep themselves and others from entering these potential **Crush Zones**.



Departments of Public Works use a lot of equipment to lift heavy objects, including forklifts, backhoes, front-end loaders, etc. Workers must work in the proximity of these vehicles when loads are lifted or when the equipment is in the raised position. Points to remember:

- Workers must never be assigned the job of being under a raised load or vehicle component
- Operators with a raised load have different visibility and blind spots
- Do not take a 'short-cut' under a raised load or vehicle component
- PEOSHA prohibits working in a trench while a excavator is in operation



Several pieces of equipment (dump trucks, leaf vacuums, sanitation trucks, and sweepers) have lift gates or bodies that can be raised. Under normal operations, workers are not permitted to go under a raised component.



During maintenance or repairs, workers and mechanics must ensure blocking mechanisms are properly locked in place. If supports are not provided, proper blocking must be used with such equipment as jack stands or wood cribbing.

- Never rely on hydraulic cylinders alone
- Never rely on workers to hold components such as hoods. Keep fingers and toes out of the Crush Zone also.
- Ensure all warning labels are in place and legible