

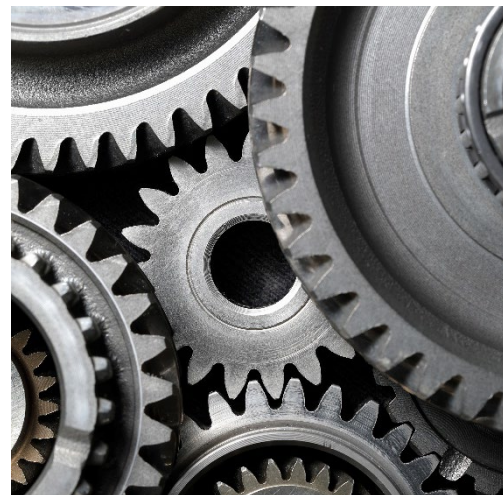
MOHSS

Montana Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance

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Don't Get Caught!

“Caught In, Caught Under, and Caught Between” is a classification for injuries occurring when a worker is contacted by objects squeezing, pinching, or crushing the worker at any points of contact.ⁱ Every day, Montana workers are exposed to potential hazards, including machinery, vehicles, appliances, furniture, and other objects which create a potential pinch point. Because more serious caught in, under, and between accidents can lead to permanent or fatal injury from fractures, amputations, and other causes, it is necessary to take precautions to reduce the risk of contact. This newsletter will explain the types of caught in, under, and between injuries, examine injury occurrence data for Montana, and provide guidance for reducing the risk posed by pinch point hazards.



Specific Caught In, Under, and Between Injury Classification

Caught in, under, and between injuries primarily arise from three sources, although some complex injuries are classified with a “not otherwise covered” code. The sources of injury are:

- Machine or machinery: This includes all injuries resulting from contact with the moving parts of a powered machine, or multiple powered machines.
- Objects handled: This includes all injuries resulting from contact with unpowered objects, including both moving objects such as wheels, objects being moved by the worker, and environmental objects such as doors.
- Collapsing materials: This includes all injuries resulting from contact with collapsing solids or liquids.

This report will focus on caught in, under, and between injuries from machinery, handled objects, and injuries classified as not otherwise covered.



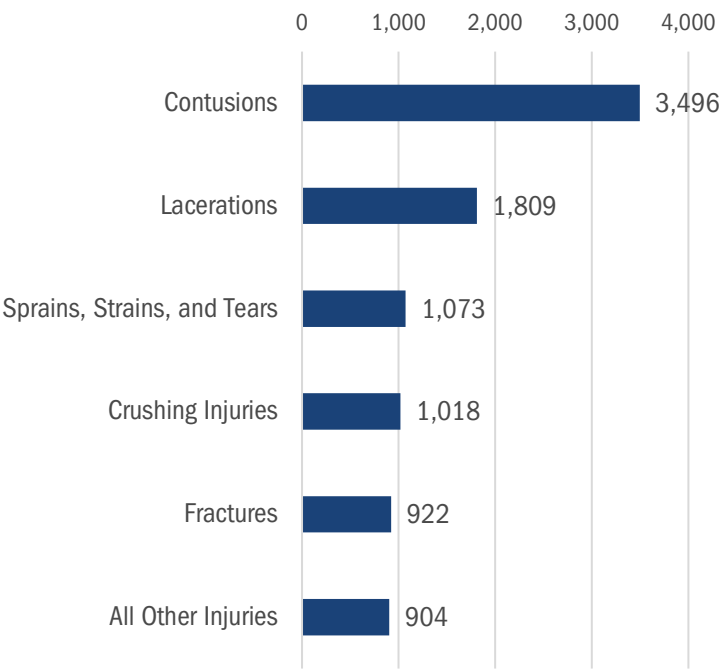
Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY

Details of Caught In, Under, and Between Injuries

From 2015 to 2024, Montana workers reported over 9,200 injuries from being caught in, under, and between machinery or objects in their workplace, or about 4% of all injuries reported during this time.ⁱⁱ² Additional details of these injuries include:

- Injuries from being caught in, under, and between machinery or objects were most commonly contusions (38%), followed by lacerations (20%), sprains including strains and tears (12%), crushing injuries (11%), fractures (10%), and other injuries (9%).
- Caught in, under, and between injuries represented the largest share of injuries in workplaces focused on agriculture (8.8%), mining (8.1%), manufacturing (6.3%), and wholesale trade (6%). These types of injuries accounted for less than 5% of injuries in all other industry sectors.
- Where demographic information was provided, workers injured from being caught in, under, or between machinery or objects were more likely to be men (68%). This is likely due to the gender composition of the industries experiencing these types of injuries. Workers were also most likely to be between the ages of 19 and 30.
- Where work experience information was provided, injuries were most common in the first year of employment. This matches previously observed trends and may also be due to the large number of young workers reporting injuries from being caught in, under, or between machinery or objects.ⁱⁱⁱ³
- About 14% of injuries from being caught in, under, or between machinery or objects resulted in the injured worker receiving workers' compensation lost-wage benefits. This is roughly equivalent to the percentage of all injuries which resulted in payout of benefits to the injured worker. Injuries caused by contact with machinery resulted in higher average payout than injuries from contact with objects, suggesting the injuries from contact with machinery were more severe and required longer recovery time for the injured worker.

Caught In, Under, and Between Injuries



Avoiding Caught In, Under, and Between Injuries in the Workplace

Fortunately, workers can avoid injuries from being caught in, under, or between machinery and objects with simple preventive measures. The Montana Department of Labor & Industry encourages employers and workers to implement the following steps:

For Stationary Machinery	For Motorized Vehicles	For Other Objects
• Install and maintain machine guarding, eliminating or reducing exposed parts • Establish lock-out / tag-out procedures for all machine maintenance and train all staff on these procedures	• Establish zones for vehicles and personnel to avoid any contact incidents • Ensure vehicle operators are aware of blind spots and, if needed, provide spotters to signal if blind spots are clear • Ensure vehicles are wearing seat belts or other restraints	• Ensure all workers are paying attention to other workers and their surroundings when moving any objects around the worksite • Ensure proper storage of materials, reducing risks of collapsing or shifting objects

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) [has released guidance for construction workers on avoiding Caught In, Under, or Between Injuries](#) that can be adapted to meet the needs of all workplaces. Additionally, the [OSHA Construction eTool](#) provides guidance on a variety of safety topics. The Montana Department of Labor & Industry recommends reviewing the information available from these resources and implementing best practices to keep workers as safe as possible.

ⁱ 1 [Cause of Injury Codes. Workers' Compensation Insurance Organization](#)

ⁱⁱ 2 Montana Department of Labor & Industry Workers' Compensation Administrative Network (Internal Data)

ⁱⁱⁱ ["Work Experience and Workplace Injury" by Kristine Ediger. Montana Department of Labor & Industry](#)

