

Hazards of working in the line of fire



Being in the line of fire means 'being in harm's way'. Any source of energy or movable object can be a line of fire hazard. These are not always obvious or constant and can be introduced as the task progresses (e.g. underground

and overhead powerlines, pipelines, objects under pressure, stored energy, lines under tension, poorly supported excavations, shifting cargo, moving equipment).

At all times individuals should continually monitor their surroundings and position themselves to avoid being in the line of fire. This includes ensuring they are visible to vehicle drivers and equipment operators.

Line of Fire

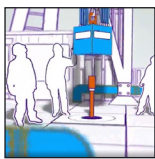
Keep yourself and others out of the line of fire



- I position myself to avoid:
 - moving objects
 - vehicles
 - pressure releases
 - dropped objects
- I establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones
- I take action to secure loose objects and report potential dropped objects

Source: IOGP, Report 459 IOGP Life-Saving Rules

Here are some incidents that have happened to people working in the line of fire:



Stay out of the line of fire

Line of fire hazards are mobile heavy equipment, lifting and hoisting, dropped objects, tensioned lines/devices, objects with roll/fall potential, pressurised equipment, machinery and tools, electrical equipment...

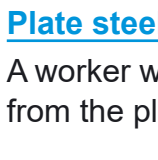


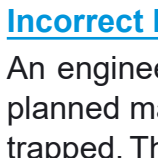
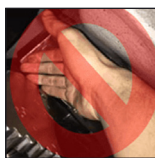
Plate steels fell from plate clamp, severely injuring worker's foot

A worker was lifting a load using a plate clamp. A section of plate steel fell from the plate clamp and injured the worker's foot.



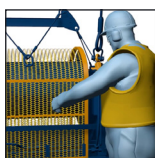
Banksman crushed during pipe lifting operations

A banksman was caught between two conductor pipes while they were being offloaded from a supply vessel. He suffered serious internal injuries and a fractured pelvis.



Incorrect hand placement during engine maintenance

An engineer was replacing pistons on a vessel's main engine as part of planned maintenance work. During the activity, one of his fingers became trapped. The engineer's finger was seriously injured and required 7 stitches.



In the line of fire

Getting caught in the line of fire means being struck by or caught between two objects or entangled in machinery. This can result in serious injury or even death. Be aware of potential pinch points...

