

Are you aware of your danger zone? Are you in the Line of Fire?

Line of Fire directly contributed to over 21% of Programmed's incidents during 2020 – this is the second highest causal factor behind vehicles/mobile plant.

What is Line of Fire?

Put simply, Line of Fire refers to placing yourself or your colleagues in harm's way while performing a task. It is any scenario where you could be hit, struck, pinched, impaled, crushed, caught between, or injured as an outcome from a stored energy.

Depending on what you are doing, Line of Fire can take on many different forms.

- Placing body part in/around mower blades or other moving machinery
- Standing in the line of travel of a moving forklift
- Standing below scaffold or elevated work platform, with painting works occurring above
- Administering injections within healthcare
- Holding a nail whilst hammering
- Walking across traffic flow areas within car parks

So how do we prevent line of fire events?

On nearly every job there is something that could hit, spray, pinch or crush. Identifying line of fire hazards through a risk assessment processes such as a Take 5 or SWMS is key to understanding what could go wrong and how to prevent it from occurring. It's important to consider positions of people and the work tasks going on around you to identify where you and others could be in harm's way.

The first priority is to eliminate the hazards entirely if possible, but if not, protective measures must be implemented and you must remain focused on your surroundings and where you position your body to ensure you stay out of danger zones. Examples of protective measures include physical barriers, guarding around moving parts and toe boards on elevated work platforms to prevent objects falling on others below.

It is important to always remember that line of fire hazards are some of the most harmful and awareness is the first line of defence.



The key points are

- Always position your body outside of the pathway of hazards.
- Always consider the positions of others when performing work (and encourage them to do the same).
- Ensure that tools and equipment are only used for the purpose for which they are designed.
- Do not take short cuts
- Communicate and implement controls to protect others when performing a task.
- Be alert to changing conditions
- Maintain positive communication with people beside, above and below while working.