

Establishing a Strike Zone



Establishing a Strike Zone for Objects Handled by Others Work Operations

What is a strike zone?

A strike zone is the area around material handling operations where the potential for an object being handled can be hurled across a space or can roll or slide and strike a person. Working in the strike zone requires the full attention of all workers (pedestrians and equipment operators) and leaves no room for any distractions.

- A **flying object hazard** exists when something has been thrown, hurled, or propelled across space.
- A **rolling object hazard** includes instances in which the worker is struck by a rolling or sliding object or equipment on the same level.

Employers can ensure a safe work environment for workers by establishing a strike zone for objects being handled by others work operations. At a minimum, the strike zone should include the following:

- Sufficient width to allow workers to walk safely around all mobile equipment without entering the established strike zone.
- If possible, strike zone lines should be marked with caution tape or adequately barricaded.
- A flagger to direct pedestrian traffic around the strike zone.

Strike Zone Requirements

- The strike zone should extend 360 degrees around the affected area. The strike zone will move with the forklift or powered industrial truck as it performs work operations
- Strike zone perimeters should be established using the following methods:
 - The strike zone is dependent on the object(s) being handled. If the material can roll, slide, or bounce the strike zone perimeter should take this factor and the distance the object(s) can travel if hurled from the forklift or PIT into account.
 - Determine travel path of forklift or PIT while it performs object handling operations and include this in the strike zone plan.
 - If possible, mark the strike zone perimeter with safety cones, temporary marking flags, ribbon, etc.
 - If the parameters of the strike zone change it should be reviewed and communicated to all workers involved in or affected by the work.

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Project: _____

Location: _____

Object(s) being handled or transported: _____

Radius of the strike zone perimeter: _____

Travel path of the forklift or PIT: _____

Perimeter markers: _____

Operation personnel: _____

Supervisor: _____ Date: _____