It's Best To Expect The Unexpected

Many “struck-by” mishaps are related to material handling and housekeeping deficiencies. Poorly stacked materials could fall on you or your co-workers. Objects that block aisles—hand trucks, carts and containers—may injure workers who bump into them. Also, aisles should be clearly marked and be free of obstructions. (Besides looking in the aisles, watch for falling objects from overhead. Someone may have left tools or parts on window ledges, shelves, cranes or working platforms. If there is a danger from overhead hazards, wear an approved hard hat.) Be alert and report all hazards to your supervisor immediately.

Mishap prevention in the workplace is often thought of as properly designed guards and other devices. But it’s more than that. You perform your job everyday, so who else can protect you better than yourself? While you do your job for these and other potential hazards:

- Obstructed aisles, stairs and other walkways
- Objects leaning against walls, racks, posts or equipment
- Inadequate guarding of power driven machinery
- Unmarked low beams or pipes

Opening doors can present a “struck-by” hazard. Have you ever approached a windowless door and had it swing towards you? Never stand in front of such a door. If you have to work near such a door, prop it open. (SUPERVISORS: Consider replacing such doors, or adding windows to them, where feasible.)

People can be safety hazards if they do not watch where they are going. Don’t let conversations distract you. Pay attention to your path of travel. When approaching a corner or intersection in a hallway, walk in the center of the hall instead of near the wall where you cannot see or be seen by those traveling in other directions.

Think about ways to avoid these mishaps. Don’t injure yourself or your co-worker bumping into something, or someone, in your work area.

—Credit: Divots

Miami Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association