



May 22 — Right in the Path

Employee standing in the wrong space when using a comealong.	Work was placed on hold for a moment and explained the line of fire scenario before returning to work.
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The setup was holding. The line was tight. The load wasn't moving. Everything looked controlled. So, the position didn't seem like a problem.

Standing close. Right where the work was happening. Right where the force was being applied. But that's exactly where the risk is. Tension doesn't show itself when everything is holding.

It shows itself when something fails.

A slip. A break. A sudden release. And all that stored energy has to go somewhere. Fast. And it goes in the direction it's been pulled. Right through the space the employee was standing in.

Nothing let go this time. But if it had, there wouldn't have been time to move.

The correction was simple. Step out of the path. Reposition before continuing.

Because with stored energy, safety isn't just about the tool. It's about where you stand.

Hazards

- Sudden release of stored energy
- Snapback or recoil from tensioned line
- Struck-by injuries
- Crushing or impact injuries
- Line of fire exposure to mechanical force

Stats

- Many line of fire incidents involve stored or released energy
- Workers positioned in predictable energy paths are at highest risk
- Tensioned systems can release energy instantly if compromised
- Reaction time is not sufficient once failure occurs

Words of Wisdom

- Don't stand where energy will go
- Tension doesn't give warnings
- Position is protection

Pause and Think

When something is under tension and holding steady, it's easy to trust it.

It feels controlled. Predictable. Safe enough.

But the risk isn't when it's holding.

It's when it stops holding.

And that moment doesn't give you time to react.

That's why position matters before anything happens.

- Am I standing in the path of potential energy?
- Do I think about where things will go if something fails?
- Am I trusting the setup instead of respecting the risk?
- Would I reposition before continuing the work?