



Furniture Store Employees—Struck-by or Against Injuries

75 furniture store employees were seriously injured from being struck-by or against objects in 2000-2004.



These injuries were so serious, workers had to take time off work to recover, or in some cases, were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the average base rate of \$.67 per hour per employee paid by furniture store employers in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” could increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$.83 per hour per employee.

Stated in another way, if you had 5 full-time furniture store employees and had an average number of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$6,900 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because you had higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$1,600 more or \$8,500 in premiums in 2006.

Causes of struck-by injuries

Struck-by/against injuries are 12% of all injuries among furniture store workers.

Furniture store employees are hurt by:

- Boxes and materials falling from above.
- Falling heavy objects such as furniture.
- Striking against counters, cabinets, pallets, and materials.
- Box cutters being used inappropriately.



Keep box cutters sheathed when not in use

Ways to prevent struck-by injuries

To prevent struck-by injuries:

- Use good materials handling techniques by:
 - Stacking boxes, furniture, and other materials appropriately
 - Allowing safe clearances in aisles and walkways,
 - Avoid stacking or storing items to cause them to jut out or obstruct
 - Use proper lifting techniques and use assistance when moving heavy objects.
- Know your surroundings when walking;
 - Use caution on corners and when carrying items
 - Move slowly and carefully
- Use box cutter with caution by;
 - Keep them sheathed when not in use
 - Never cut toward you
 - Always know where the blade is located
- Consider PPE;
 - When moving heavy objects, use appropriate footwear
 - Consider using gloves when moving or stacking materials and cutting boxes