

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## COST OF AN ACCIDENT

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit [cat.com/toolboxtalks](http://cat.com/toolboxtalks).

### COST OF AN ACCIDENT

Every accident has a cost associated with it, and that is why it is important to stress safety on and off the job. The costs that are involved are both direct and indirect; however, the employee who was injured will be the one who pays the most. The costs associated with an accident are always more than just dollars and cents.

- DIRECT COSTS FOR THE EMPLOYEE**
  - Lost wages and overtime
  - Doctor and hospital bills
  
- INDIRECT COSTS FOR THE EMPLOYEE**
  - Physical pain and suffering
  - Mental anguish
  - Lost time with family and friends
  - Loss of productivity on and off the job
  - Relationship strain
  
- DIRECT COSTS FOR THE EMPLOYER**
  - Medical bills and workers' compensation claims
  - Legal costs
  - Insurance costs
  - Property damage costs
  - Wages being paid for a sideline worker
  
- INDIRECT COSTS FOR THE EMPLOYER**
  - Loss of a valued employee
  - Loss of productivity
  - Replacing the lost worker (e.g., hiring and training costs)
  - Damage to equipment or tools
  - Time it takes to handle the injury claim
  - Decrease in employee morale over the loss of an employee

Discussion Date:

Employee Participants:

  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  

The material in this document is provided for informational purposes only and not as a comprehensive or exhaustive resource on this topic. This material has been compiled from a multitude of sources believed to be accurate; however, Caterpillar Inc. assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or currency of this information and encourages you to consult experts in this area for more information. In no event does the content of this document supersede any applicable local, state or federal statutes or regulations.

There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit [cat.com/toolboxtalks](http://cat.com/toolboxtalks).