**TOOLBOX TALK – Falling Objects**

**Explain Dangers**
The most common injuries workers suffer as a result of falling objects are contusions, fractures, strains, and sprains. In the construction industry, the list of objects that commonly fall range from large items such as roof trusses and steel beams to small items such as fasteners and small hand tools.

**Identify Controls**
There are two types of controls you can use to prevent falling objects from hurting workers: 1) Physical and 2) Procedural.

1. **PHYSICAL CONTROLS** physically stop the object from falling.
   
a) **Guardrails**
   Toeboards must be installed within the guardrail system. They stop objects from falling down to the level below. Walkways and platforms installed over machinery and work areas shall be equipped with toe boards at least 10.16 centimetres high along all sides of the walkway or platform.

b) **Open grating covers**
If you are performing work on open grating, place non-slip plywood or a similar product on top of the grating to prevent small objects, such as hand tools or nuts and bolts, from falling through. You could also consider placing a net under the grating.

c) **Barricades and overhead protective structures**
Use barricades to block off an “exclusion zone” - an area where workers are not allowed—the work area. Combine barricades with signs that indicate “Exclusion Zone – Entry is Prohibited” and “Overhead Work”. This also applies to hoisting areas.

d) **Tool lanyards and tethers**
Tool lanyards and tethers can attach tools directly to the worker’s harness or tool belt.

e) **Carts with sides**
When moving equipment, tools, or material, always use a cart that is an appropriate size for what you are moving and make sure the cart has sides. If you need to extend something over the sides of the cart, you must secure the item and the cart must be stable.

2. **PROCEDURAL CONTROLS** refer to changing the way you work so that objects can’t fall.

a) **Securing loads**
When lifting, make sure the load is balanced and secured. Check for small or loose pieces before you lift. If you don’t do this, a shift in the load or windy conditions could cause the load, or a part of the load, to fall. If you’re placing a load on a scaffold or a platform, make sure there are properly built guardrails in the work area that include mid-rails and toeboards.

b) **Good hoisting practices**
Never lift, lower, or swing a load over someone’s head. Use barricades to block off areas where loads are being lifted or lowered. If the operator’s view is impeded in any way, use a signaler to assist the operator. Always use proper rigging procedures and ensure the rigging equipment is in good condition.

c) **Good housekeeping**
Keep tools and other materials away from edges, railings, and other elevated surfaces. Always stack materials on flat surfaces and secure them, if necessary, to avoid movement. When working, be aware of your surroundings and watch that you don’t inadvertently knock or hit something off the level you are working on down to the level below.

d) **Proper material stacking**
To prevent tipping, store materials and equipment at least 2 meters away from an open edge. If you are working near openings, arrange materials so that they can’t roll or slide in the direction of the opening. It is always a good idea to use opening covers as well. Wind can also pose a danger. Always secure material to prevent movement. When you remove something from a secured pile, don’t forget to re-secure the material.

**Demonstrate**
Perform a site inspection to identify falling-object hazards.

Complete and attached Toolbox Meeting Form and process as per company policy.
Material adapted for NLCSA, with permission, from Infrastructure Health and Safety Association.
# TOOLBOX MEETING FORM

**Date:** _________  **Project:** _____________________________________________________________

**Supervisor:** ____________________________________  **No. in Crew:** _____  **No. Attending:** _____

**Review Last Meeting:**
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
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**Topics Discussed (policies, practices, procedures, hazard assessment):**

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**Suggestions Offered:**
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**Action(s) to be Taken:**
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**Injuries/Accidents Reviewed:**
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**Supervisor’s Remarks:**_____________________________________________  **Signature:**________________________________________________________

**Signature:**________________________________________________________