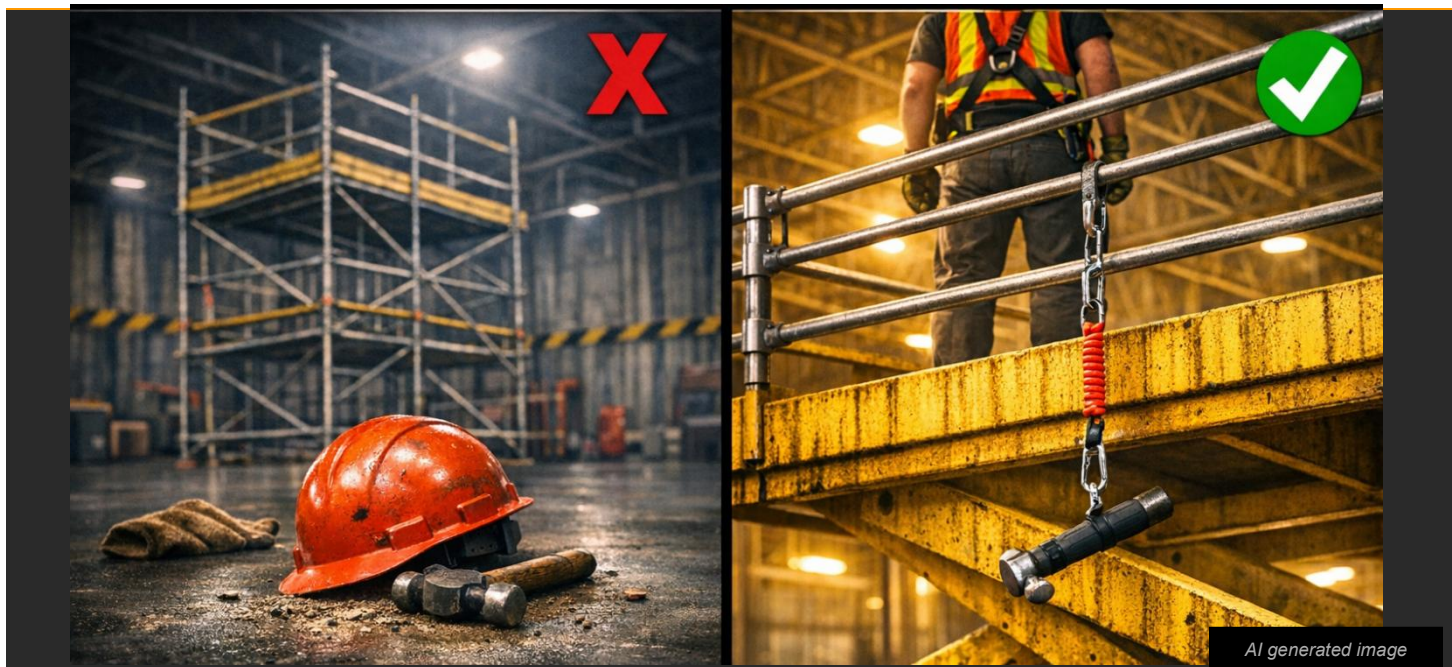


THE DROP **STOPS** HERE

DROPPED OBJECTS AWARENESS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – PREVENTING DROPPED OBJECTS ON THE JOBSITE



SECURING TOOLS

Tools and equipment that fall from height pose a serious and completely preventable risk on construction sites. Even a small hand tool can cause significant injury or property damage if dropped. Ensuring every tool is properly secured protects workers above and below.



KEY MESSAGE

If a tool goes up, it must be secured. If you're working below, be aware of drop zones and stay out. Everyone is responsible for preventing dropped tools and ensuring a safe work environment.

TIPS FOR SECURING TOOLS

- Know the common hazards that increase the likelihood of dropped tools
- Know the human factors that can increase the risk of dropped tools
- Know how to prevent the occurrence of dropped tools.

HAZARDS OF UNSECURED TOOLS

- Poor housekeeping on elevated platforms, allowing tools to sit loose.
- Tools placed too close to edges or not stored properly between tasks.
- Leaving tools on the top step of ladders.
- Failure to use tool lanyards or tethering systems.
- Overloaded tool belts or pockets that allow tools to fall out.
- Holes in floors that are left uncovered.
- Weather conditions such as wind affecting tools left out.
- Rushing, fatigue, or poor communication between workers at different elevations.

HUMAN FACTORS THAT INCREASE RISK

- Cold, wet, or wearing improperly fitted gloves that reduce grip on tools.
 - Awkward body positioning while using tools overhead or at height.
 - Carrying too many tools at once or climbing with tools in hand.
- Distractions or multitasking while handling tools.

CONTROLS TO PREVENT DOPPED TOOLS

- **Secure All Tools**
 - Always use tool lanyards or tethers when working at height.
 - Keep tools in secure pouches, buckets or tethered containers.
 - Use toe boards, debris nets, or guardrails to prevent tools from falling off platforms.

- **Maintain Good Housekeeping**
 - Remove unnecessary tools from elevated surfaces, including the top steps of ladders.
 - Keep workstations organized and free of loose equipment.
 - Ensure all floor openings, regardless of size, are properly covered
- **Use Barriers and Drop Zones**
 - Set up barricades beneath areas where tools may be used overhead.
 - Communicate clearly when lowering or lifting tools.
- **Inspect Equipment Regularly**
 - Inspect lanyards, tool belts, clips, and tether points routinely for damage.
 - Ensure equipment such as scaffolds or lifts are free of loose tools before use.
- **Work With Awareness**
 - Maintain three points of contact when climbing with tools stored securely.
 - Never carry loose tools by hand while ascending or descending.
 - Stop and reassess surroundings before performing overhead tool work.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Securing tools is essential for preventing injuries and property damage. Proper tethering, storage, housekeeping, inspections, and continuous awareness are the most effective ways to keep tools from falling.

Disclaimer: This material is intended for general use and may not apply to every circumstance. The NLCSA does not guarantee accuracy or assume liability for the information presented. It is not a definitive guide to government regulations and does not relieve persons using this information from their responsibilities under applicable legislation.

Disclaimer: This material is intended for general use and may not apply to every circumstance. The NLCSA does not guarantee accuracy or assume liability for the information presented. It is not a definitive guide to government regulations and does not relieve persons using this information from their responsibilities under applicable legislation.

