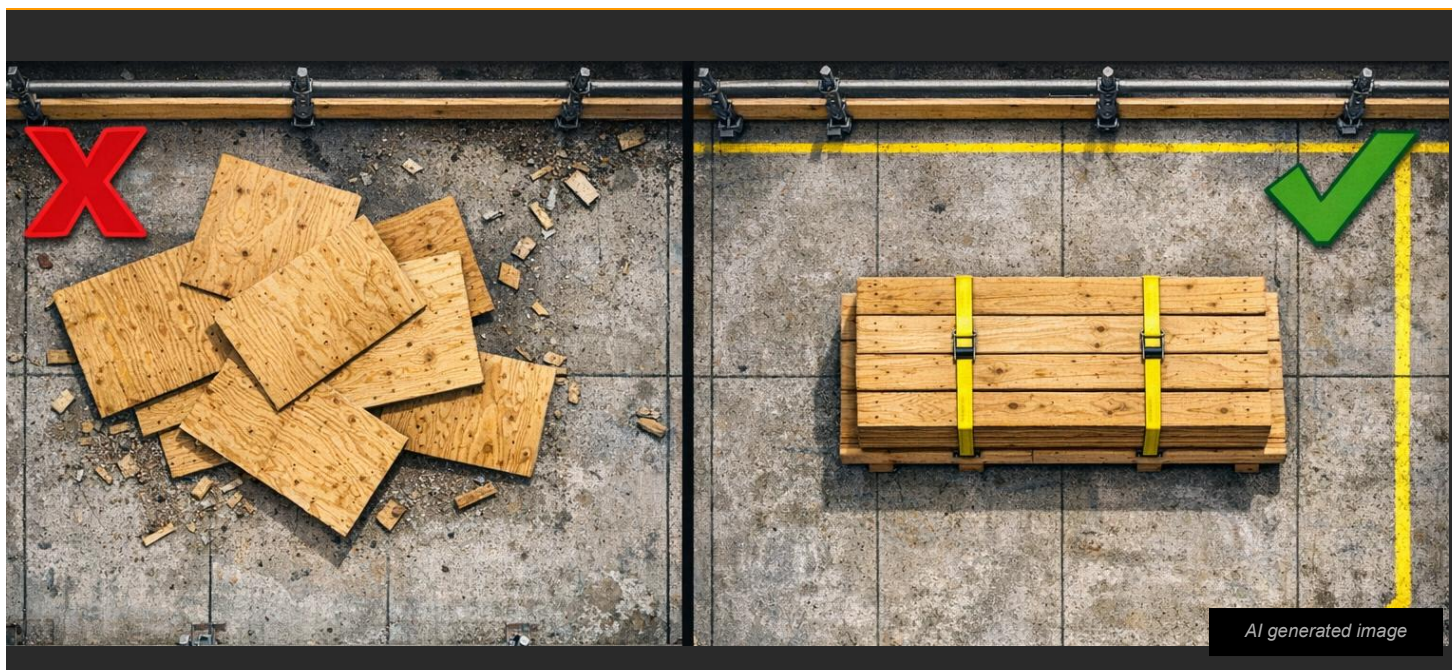


THE DROP **STOPS** HERE

DROPPED OBJECTS AWARENESS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – SAFE MATERIAL HANDLING AT HEIGHT



What Goes Up Must Be Tied Down!

Dropped objects aren't just tools — materials like plywood, rebar, buckets, and debris can fall and cause serious injuries. These items can slide, roll, be blown over, or get knocked off platforms if not secured. Handling materials safely at height is one of the best ways to protect workers below.

KEY MESSAGE

Safe material handling is key to stopping dropped objects. Secure materials, keep work areas tidy, and use the right equipment to protect everyone below.

TIPS FOR SAFE HANDLING OF MATERIALS AT HEIGHTS

- Know that all materials can become dropped objects
- Use proper containment and barriers
- Ensure good housekeeping to prevent dropped objects
- Secure small items
- Do not throw materials
- Take environmental factors into consideration

MATERIALS CAN FALL JUST AS EASILY AS TOOLS

- Plywood can catch the wind
- Rebar or lumber can roll or shift
- Small parts can bounce, spill, or slide off. Anything not secured is a risk

USE PROPER CONTAINMENT AND BARRIERS

- Toe boards on platforms
- Netting or debris mesh for small items
- Edge protection on scaffolds
- Storage racks for rebar, pipes, and sheets
- Engineering controls stop objects before they fall

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PREVENTS DROPPED OBJECTS

- Keep walkways and work areas clean
- Don't leave materials near edges
- Secure loose items between tasks
- A tidy work area is one of the easiest ways to prevent drops

SECURE SMALL ITEMS

- Use fastener pouches, buckets with lids, magnetic trays, and organizers for small parts
- Never leave screws, nails, drill bits, or hardware loose on a surface

DON'T THROW MATERIALS – USE HAUL LINES

- Tossing or passing materials by hand is unsafe.
- Use haul lines, tool bags, or lifts to move materials safely

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- Wind, vibration, equipment movement, and shifting loads can make items slide or fall
- Check conditions often, especially on scaffolds, manlifts, rooftops, and elevated decks. What was safe an hour ago may not be now

ACTIVITY

Walk your platform, lift, or work area and look for unsecured materials:

- Loose fasteners
- Unsecured sheets
- Items near edges
- Objects on temporary surfaces
- Debris that could blow or roll off
- Fix any problems right away — don't wait for the next break.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Secure every material and tool when working at height — even small items can become dangerous dropped objects

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.