

THE DROP STOPS HERE

DROPPED OBJECTS AWARENESS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – PREVENTING DROPPED OBJECTS ON THE JOBSITE

ZERO DROPS STARTS WITH US

What Are Dropped Objects?

A dropped object is any tool, material, or piece of equipment that falls from a height. There are two types of dropped objects:

1. **Static Dropped Objects** - These fall because they were stored, stacked, or placed somewhere and later became dislodged. For example, a wrench left on a scaffold plank that vibrates loose or a brick knocked off a ledge.
2. **Dynamic Dropped Objects** - These fall because they slip from someone's hand or control during work. For example, a worker loses grip on a drill or a bolt falls while being installed.

KEY MESSAGE

Know what can fall—tools, materials, and equipment—and secure every item at height. Understanding dropped objects is the first step; preventing them protects everyone below

TIPS TO PREVENT DROPPED OBJECTS

- Know the common causes of dropped objects
- Know the human factors that can increase the number of dropped objects
- Know how to prevent dropped objects

COMMON CAUSES OF DROPPED OBJECTS

- Poor housekeeping on elevated platforms
- Improperly stored materials
- No tool tethering when working at height
- Overloaded tool belts or pockets
- Vibration from equipment shaking items loose
- Weather conditions like wind affecting materials
- Rushing or working while fatigued
- Lack of communication between crews working above and below

HUMAN FACTORS THAT INCREASE RISK

- Working with cold or wet hands
- Wearing bulky gloves that reduce grip
- Awkward body positions while reaching or leaning
- Distractions or multitasking
- Carrying too many items at once
- Climbing with tools in hand instead of using tool hoists

CONTROLS TO PREVENT DROPPED OBJECTS

- **Secure Tools and Materials**
 - Use tool lanyards when working at height.
 - Keep tools in pouches, buckets, or tethered containers.
 - Store materials away from edges and walkways.
 - Use toe boards, debris nets, or guardrails on elevated platforms.

- **Maintain Good Housekeeping**
 - Keep work areas tidy and organized.
 - Remove unnecessary items from elevated surfaces.
 - Clean up offcuts and loose materials regularly.
- **Use Proper Barriers and Exclusion Zones**
 - Set up barricades or signage below overhead work.
 - Keep people out of drop zones unless absolutely necessary.
 - Communicate clearly when lifting or lowering materials.
- **Inspect Equipment Regularly**
 - Check tool lanyards, belts, and pouches for wear.
 - Make sure fasteners, clamps, and rigging are secure.
 - Inspect scaffolds, platforms, and lifts for loose items.
- **Work With Awareness**
 - Maintain three points of contact when climbing.
 - Don't carry loose tools in your hands while ascending.
 - Pause and check your surroundings before starting overhead work.

KEY TAKEAWAY

If it goes up, it must be secured. If you're working below, stay alert. We all play a part in keeping the job site drop-free.

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