



Safety Share

Dropped/Falling Objects

Each year, thousands of workers receive hospital care after being struck by a falling object. Injuries range from minor abrasions to concussions, blindness, or death.

These controls can help protect workers from falling objects:

- Restrict access to areas where workers are working at height.
- Install physical barricades and signage to warn anyone entering an area of the potential for falling objects.
- Never throw objects down to lower levels or up to higher levels.
- Never lift, lower or swing the load over anyone's head.
- Make sure loads are properly secured.
- Use taglines when lifting or lowering to help control the position of the load.
- Keep work areas neat and tidy.
- Where practical, do not store materials within 1.96 metres (6.5 feet) of an edge or opening.
- Where materials are stored within 1.96 metres (6.5 feet) of an edge or opening, use guardrails equipped with toe boards that are at least 8.89 centimetres (3.5 inches) high from the working surface and strong enough to withstand a force of at least 50 pounds.
- If tools, equipment or materials are piled higher than the toe board, panels or netting should be used.
- Use tool lanyards to prevent accidental drops.
- Where falling objects may exist, ensure workers wear protective headgear.

