

Dropped Object

What Define Drop Object?

On worksites, the term dropped object takes on a specific meaning. A dropped object can be:

- An object that falls from a height by its own weight and gravity, or
- An object that falls from a height due to contact with an energy source.

In either case, the result can be injury to people, property or the environment. When referring to dropped objects consider:

- Hand tools being used at heights
- Hand tools / equipment's left behind after working at height
- Lifting operations
- Where personnel are working on a level directly below the work site.
- Equipment mounted at a height that, following contact, vibration or environmental condition could fall.

While everyone knows dropped objects are dangerous, what might not be as obvious is just how dangerous they can be. Did you know?



What Creates Dropped Objects?

- Poor Housekeeping
- Scrap & debris left aloft
- Load miscalculation
- Instability
- Poor Behaviors (people walking by unsafe act/conditions)
- Improperly secured or inappropriate loads
- Carrying equipment while at height
- No lanyard on tools used at height
- Ineffective control of equipment or tools taken aloft
- Lack of risk assessment
- No regular inspection
- Weather condition etc.



Changing Our Perspective about Dropped Objects

In Construction Site/Plant, we expect workers at height to wear a fall protection harness and be tied off. Why? Because we're trying to prevent people from falling. Now we need to think, have we done anything to prevent tools from falling.

- ✓ Expanding a fall protection program to include tools and equipment is far easier for everyone than creating a new program for drop prevention. The difference between a fall protection program for humans and fall protection program for tools is only a matter of perspective: ***The first saves you; the second saves others.***
- ✓ Take note of particular weather conditions that can elevate risk
- ✓ Train all employees on potential hazards
- ✓ Create your own hazard identification tool
- ✓ Conduct regular hazard observation
- ✓ Consider the use of safety nets and tethers for tools
- ✓ Create an easy system for reporting all incidents to help track trends and locate specific areas where dropped object risks are greater
- ✓ Promote active participation of workers in prevention program and reward workers who participate regularly.

Prevent Injuries from Falling Objects

Six steps to prevent injuries from falling objects.

1. Provide Warning
2. Secure Loads
3. Properly Move Load-Never Lift, Lower or Swing a Load Over Anyone's Head
4. Keep Clean Worksite
5. Keep Administrative Controls
6. Use Protective Equipment's

