

Falling Objects

Falling objects are a common cause of death and serious injury in the construction industry. Materials, tools, debris or equipment falling from above can cause fatal head injuries and other serious harm.

Let's look first at the problem of stored materials. Materials are piled in the yard, in the truck or at various places on the jobsite.

You should pile all materials on a sound base and at a reasonable height. It may be necessary to cross-tie and cover these materials for protection and safety.

Piling materials on scaffolds requires special care:

- Be careful not to overload the scaffold.
- Allow ample space for work operations.
- Make the piles stable.
- Be sure toe boards are placed on all scaffolding and open elevations to safeguard workers below from falling materials, such as loose brick, tools or equipment.

When you want to send material, tools or equipment to higher elevations:

- Use containers or buckets and hand lines.
- When you pull on a hand line, be sure to stand clear of the loaded materials and tools.
- Never throw materials or tools.
- Keep an eye on the load as it rises. When you have to pull up materials that can't be placed in a container, fasten the load securely to the hand line. If materials such as pipe, conduit and rods aren't properly fastened in bundles, a piece might become jarred loose and hit the worker pulling the hand line.

Tools, equipment and materials often fall when workers attempt to carry them up ladders. Use

hand lines so your hands will be free to hold onto the ladder as you climb.

When you load hoists and platform skips, ensure the materials and packages are stacked safely. A sloppy load is a load of trouble. Never leave a load suspended.

When you work beneath other operations, such as riveting crews, wear your hardhat. Always wear your hardhat any time there is danger of being struck by a falling object or if other hazards are present.

Working from swing staging is also a dangerous operation. It requires the utmost care to prevent falls of equipment, materials and tools. Make sure all items are secured so they cannot fall.

Let's all do our share to keep objects from falling. We'll prevent injury to workers below, as well as to ourselves.

QUIZ

1. Falling objects kill and injure many construction workers.
 - d. none of the above
 - True
 - False
2. Stacking of materials in the yard isn't a safety issue.
 - True
 - False
3. When stacking items, care should be taken to avoid piling loads too high.
 - True
 - False
4. Leaving workers ample room to work on a scaffold is important.
 - True
 - False
5. _____ are placed on scaffolds and open elevators to protect people working below from falling objects
6. It's safe to toss tools and materials to workers on different levels.
True
False
7. When pulling on a hand line it's important to stand clear of loaded materials and tools.
 - True
 - False
8. When raising items that can't be placed in a container, they must be fastened securely to the hand line.
 - True
 - False
9. When working beneath other operations wear your:
 - a. designer underwear
 - b. hardhat
 - c. best smile

BEFORE THE TALK - TIPS

Refer to the "Tips For Safety Talks!" for ideas on planning this safety meeting. Read through the article ahead of time to help you with your presentation. Add further questions to those we have provided at the end of this talk.

- Check out your worksite for any potential hazards, such as materials piled too high, and address them at the safety meeting.
- Plan to show workers how to secure materials so they won't topple.
- Set up a demonstration of how to safely hoist materials to higher elevations.
- List any points you want to cover at this safety meeting:

AFTER THE TALK- *CHECKLIST*

PROVIDED FOLLOW-UP TO WORKERS THAT DID

POORLY ON THE QUIZ

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

OBSERVED WORKERS

TASK(S):

DATE:

REFRESHER TRAINING

TOPIC(S):

DATE:

OTHER (DESCRIBE):

MEETING DATE:

LOCATION: _____

NOTES

ANSWERS:

1. True	6. False
2. False	7. True
3. True	8. True
4. True	9. B
5. Toeboards	

ATTENDANCE

INSTRUCTOR: _____ **DATE:** _____

SAFETY TALK: _____