

PREVENTING INJURIES FROM FALLING OBJECTS

INTRODUCTION

Falling objects can cause injuries and death, not only for workers but for the general public as well. In order to prevent these types of injuries and fatalities, remember the following tips.

WARNING

Warning people who may pass under the area that there is a possibility of falling objects will put them on alert and encourage them to take another route. You can warn others with:

- Signs
- Verbal communications
- Barriers and fences blocking off the dangerous areas



SECURING THE LOAD

If you are lifting a load using a crane or other equipment, an obvious way to prevent injuries from the falling load is to prevent the load from falling in the first place. Make sure that:

- The load is balanced
- The load is secure
- The equipment is functioning properly
 - Inspect the equipment before each use
- Use Falling Object Protective Structures (FOPS) on equipment
- Do not exceed weight capacity



PROPERLY TRANSPORTING THE LOAD

- If possible, transport loads at times when fewer people are present.
- Have a spotter in place to tell you where it is safe to move and swing the load.
- Never assume other people can see you or your loads.
- Do not stack loads too high.
 - Stack loads to prevent sliding, falling, or collapse.
- If bad weather increases the danger for transportation, focus on another project until you can transport the load safely.

KEEPING YOUR WORKSPACE SAFE

- Do not leave loose items or tools on window ledges, shelves, cranes, or working platforms.
 - Stack them on a flat surface or a safe, designated storage place.
 - If necessary, cross tie or cover them to keep them in place.

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- Use close boarded platforms or toe boards so it is more difficult for anything on the platform to fall over the edge.
- Use tool and material lanyards.
- Use canopies or nets to catch falling items.
- Never throw materials or tools.
 - Use lanyards or buckets to transport tools up and down.
- Clean up debris immediately.
- Report any loose supports or platforms to your supervisor.



SAFETY ON THE GROUND

Although workers above will try hard to make sure that nothing falls, workers on the ground have a responsibility to be safe as well.

- Wear Personal Protective Equipment.
 - Hard hats
 - Safety boots
- Do not walk under loads.
- Follow warning signs and do not go into areas that are off-limits.
- Be alert at all times.

CONCLUSION

Following safety procedures when working at heights and when working on the ground can help prevent injuries from falling objects. Remember to always be alert and safe no matter where you are working, and you will have a better chance at avoiding injuries.

