



STOP the DROP Task Force



Stop the Drop Best Practices

In 2022, every 96 minutes a worker died in the United States. Struck-By incidents remain in the top 4 of for causes of death in the workplace according to OSHA. Many of the Struck-By incidents can be attributed to dropped objects from heights.

So what is a “Dropped Object”? Basically anything that falls from its previous intended position to a lower level. This can be anything from a bolt, structural component of your building or the equipment or tool being used to build. Below are some ideas and best practices that can help prevent you from becoming a Struck-By statistic.

4 Rules to Live By

1. Housekeeping & Material Management

- Take up only the materials necessary for the task.
- Secure and stage materials in anticipation of employee paths of travel and changes in the weather.
- Store material a minimum of 6' from floor openings and 10' from exterior walls of a working level.
- Use straps, toe boards, netting or other methods to keep materials from being dropped.
- Dispose of scrap or unused material throughout your shift to eliminate the potential of it being kicked off or dropped onto others.

2. Tool and Equipment Use

- Take up only the tools necessary for the job.
- Use tool specific tethers.
- If working near a leading edge, consider tying back ladders and scaffolds or other mobile equipment.
- Use netting to cover gaps and openings to keep tools and equipment from falling to another level.

3. Barricading

- Areas where equipment and tools cannot be secured, use barricading or Danger Tape accompanied with signage to keep workers and vehicles out of drop zones.
- In highly sensitive areas, in addition to barricading, spotters may be used to keep people safe.

4. Safe Cargo

- Have storage and site utilization plans.
- Don't stack materials over 6' to prevent overhead and fall hazards.
- Secure loads with shrink wrap, banding or others means.
- When loading/unloading trucks, ensure loads are secure before opening tailgates, doors or removing stake bed sides. For trucks without sides, be sure to use a spotter or barricade on the opposite side in case the load is pushed or tipped over.
- Develop Crane and Rigging Plans. Secure loads with the supervision of qualified or certified employees especially when working with cranes.
- With cranes, Certified Riggers are responsible for ensuring rigging is inspected and in good condition. Riggers also have the responsibility to ensure the rigging is rated for the intended load and applied in a safe manner; ensuring the loads secure and not to cause damage to the rigging or the load.



Never accept a load if it is not properly secured