



Challenges Preventing Falling Objects

Objects that fall from heights include tools, equipment, materials, and debris. Workers can be injured or killed by a falling or dropped object.

Tomas and Vasco's Story

Tomas was handing a sheet of plywood to Vasco on the roof when a gust of wind ripped the plywood from his hands. It began to slide off the roof. The wind picked up again and whipped the plywood into the air. A crane operator who saw the flying board blew his horn to warn workers on the ground, but it was too late. The flying sheet of plywood struck a worker on the ground on the back of the head, knocking him to the ground. He died on impact.

- ▶ How could this incident have been prevented?
- ▶ Have weather conditions ever affected your work? If so, what happened?
- ▶ Have you known anyone who was injured from a falling or dropped object? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- ▶ Employers should protect workers on the ground from falling objects, equipment, tools and debris. Use a job hazard analysis to plan activities.
- ▶ Stay out of areas where overhead work is taking place. Mark off the area with physical barriers and danger tape. This may require coordination with other crews. Talk to your supervisor if needed.
- ▶ Workers should receive training in person in their native language to increase understanding. If you don't understand something or have a question, make sure to speak up and ask.
- ▶ In the presence of high winds, talk to your employer or supervisor about additional precautions needed to protect workers from falling or flying objects.
- ▶ Installing toe-boards, screens, or guardrail systems and setting up debris nets, catch platforms, or canopy structures can stop dropped or falling objects from hurting workers on the ground.
- ▶ Workers should always wear personal protective equipment, like hard hats, safety glasses, gloves, and fall protection equipment if working at heights. Talk to your employer to make sure you have appropriate PPE that fits.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent falling or dropped objects?

1. _____

2. _____

OSHA REGULATION: 1926.501 and 502

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- ▶ Install protections on the roof to prevent objects from falling.
- ▶ Tether tools with proper tool lanyards when performing overhead work.
- ▶ Make sure you complete all needed training for the job.
- ▶ Inspect your worksite for new dangers each day and when conditions change.
- ▶ Wear personal protective equipment.