Preventing Falling Objects

CPWR | TOOLBOX TALK
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING

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

Leo's Story

Having finished repair of a three-story roof, Leo's crew was cleaning up the worksite. Using a portable manual rope pulley, the crew was lowering leftover bags of gravel to the ground below. Leo was monitoring progress from the ground, but took a break to pick up donuts and coffee for the crew. When he returned, Leo stepped into the fall zone and called out to his crew to join him. The crew misheard Leo's call and began lowering a 50-pound bag of gravel. The bag fell free and struck Leo's head. Leo died before he reached the hospital.

▶ **Have you had to lower material from a roof or other height? If so, what precautions did you take?**

▶ **What could have been done to prevent this incident?**

▶ **Have you known anyone who was injured from a falling or dropped object? If so, what happened?**

Remember This

▶ Select a pulley system with a brake system and inspect the pulley's components before each use, including proper anchorage of the pulley system.

▶ Make sure to follow manufacturers' specifications for proper installation of all equipment used on the worksite.

▶ Always check with the manufacturer to make sure the weight of the load does not exceed the capacity of the system, use proper rigging, and inspect each load. Use taglines, if possible.

▶ Barricade fall zones with a physical barrier to prevent others from being struck by loads. Use signage, if possible, such as "Overhead Work".

▶ Keep an eye out for your co-workers and have a system that includes both voiced and visual communication, such as hand signals.

▶ Make sure the worker assigned to the fall zone never stands below a raised load and that the worker has plenty of space to stand clear of loads that are being raised or lowered.

How can we stay safe today?

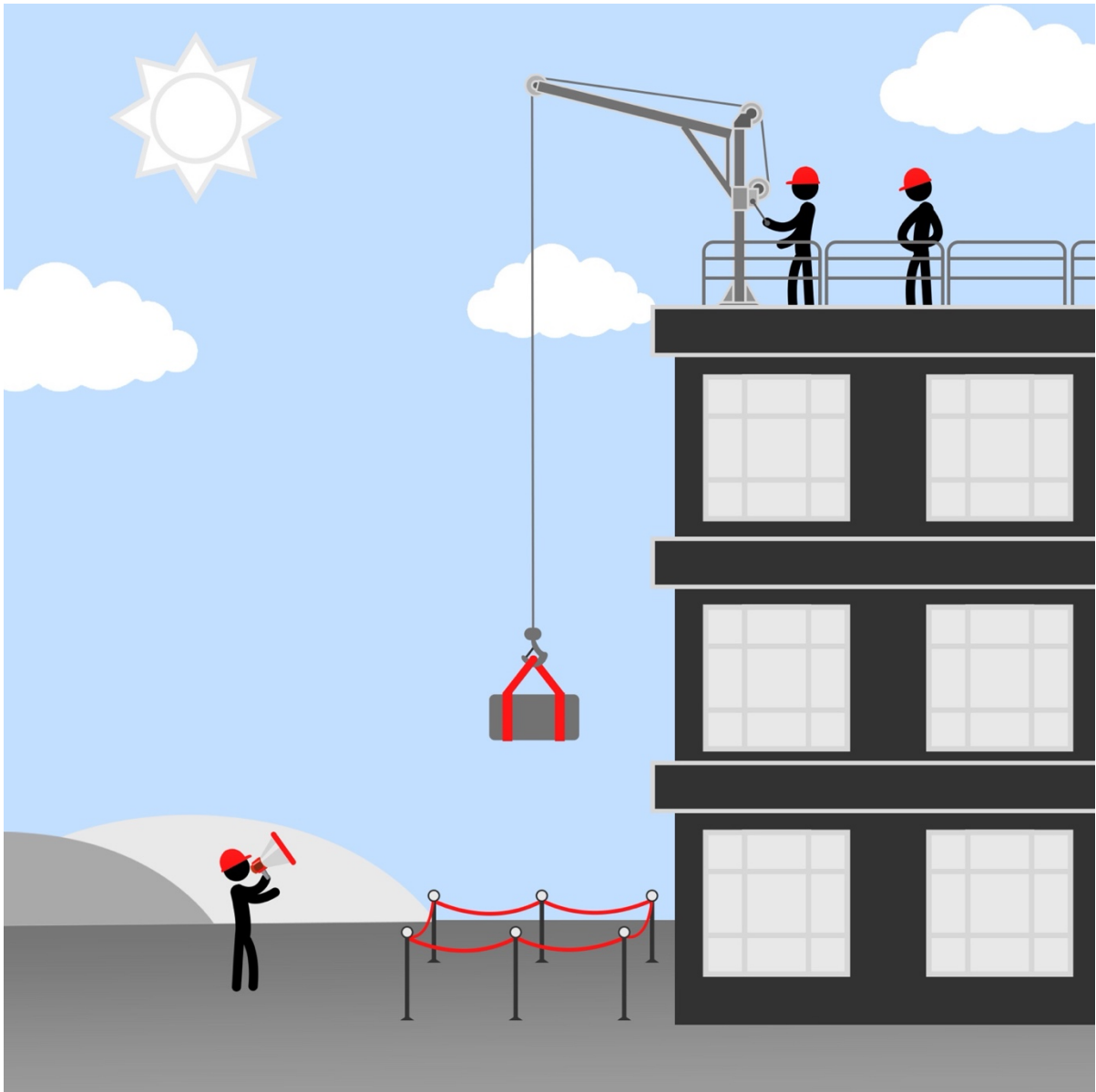What will we do at the worksite to prevent falling or dropped objects?

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

OSHA REGULATION: 1926.501 and 502

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▶ Use rope pulley systems with brakes for hoisting and lowering tasks.

▶ Communicate clearly when hoisting and lowering material.

▶ Provide training which includes hazard recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions.

▶ Develop standard operating procedures for lowering objects that include clear voice and visual signals.

▶ Barricade fall zones.

▶ Follow manufacturer specifications for all equipment used.