

Toolbox Talks



Equipment and Falling Objects

Being Struck by Falling Objects is a leading source of construction fatalities. Even a small object falling from a height can cause serious or fatal injuries.

Incident: In May 2021, a laborer was picking up debris at a construction site. A rough terrain vehicle was lifting a pile of lumber to the second floor next to him. The lumber was not secured and fell two stories from the rough terrain vehicle. Several boards struck an employee in the head. He was wearing a hard hat, but the incident left him with a concussion and other injuries.

1. **What could have been done to prevent this incident?**
2. **Are materials regularly being lifted by heavy equipment to upper levels on your worksite?**
3. **If so, what do you do to protect yourself when walking through the site? What do you do to protect others?**

Prevent Being Struck by Equipment or Objects

- Loads should not be hoisted or allowed to pass over people.
- Loads need to be secured when lifted by rough terrain vehicles, forklifts, cranes, or any sort of material mover.
- Hard hats can help minimize injuries to the head and therefore also protect your spine.
- Toe boards need to be placed on all scaffolding, unprotected sides or edges, and open elevations to protect workers below from falling materials such as lumber, brick, tools, etc.
- Materials should be stacked and secured appropriately and not leaning or ready to topple over.
- Tools in elevated working areas need to be secured if close to any change in elevation. There are new and improved tool lanyards available.
- Even when taking all of the above cautions, items can shift, so listen and watch as you walk on the site.



Discussion: Let's talk about this jobsite. Record notes and share appropriate parties.

1. Are elevated loading areas or zones on this project and cordoned off to restrict entry?
2. Is there any area on this site that the Controlling Contractor should be told about to eliminate a potential falling object exposure?

