

DROPPED OBJECTS

OSHA Standards very specifically state that workers must have protection from falling or dropped objects.

When workers are exposed to falling object hazards, they must wear head protection and at least one of the following safety measures must be implemented:

1. Erect toeboards, screens, or a guardrail system to prevent falling objects.
2. Erect a canopy structure to prevent falling objects.
3. Barricade the area below where objects could fall.



When dropped objects are a danger on the job site:

- Do not hang or drape any items over guardrails.
- Screen mesh can provide an additional layer of protection from dropped objects falling between guardrails.
- Ensure toeboards are in place; inspect frequently.
- Secure all tools and materials to prevent them from falling on people below.
- Use debris nets or catch platforms for falling object protection.
- Whenever possible, avoid working under other workers at heights.
- Consider using tool lanyards to prevent tools from being dropped.
- Workers should always wear hard hats when work is being performed overhead, or there is any risk of falling objects in the area.
- Unless items are being used for work in progress, keep all tools and materials at least 3 feet from any leading edges.
- When working at heights do not keep any items in pockets that aren't zipped or securely closed, including items like cell phones, pens, or small tools.
- Erect barricades and post warning signs at work zones that may have falling object hazards.



Discussion

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What safety precautions are currently in place that will “stop the drop” and prevent falling object injuries?