Dropped Objects & Falling Materials

TRADE: GENERAL CONSTRUCTION | **LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES** | **USE WHAT FITS TODAY**

LEADER NOTE
Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A small tool dropped from height can cause a serious injury. Control the work above and the area below before work begins. Material handling becomes dangerous when the load blocks vision, shifts unexpectedly, exceeds the planned handling method or is stored where it can roll, fall or trap someone. Plan the route, grip, team/lifting aid and final storage before the material starts moving.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS
During Dropped Objects & Falling Materials, the material turns out heavier, longer, more flexible, or more top-heavy than expected. The crew can probably muscle it through. What lifting aid, additional person, or different method should be considered instead?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Confirm load weight/shape and select the lifting aid, cart, team size or handling method before moving it.
- Walk the route and remove trip hazards, protect finished surfaces and control doors/traffic.
- Prepare stable storage/landing space before the load leaves its starting point.
- Establish exclusion zones below overhead work and keep unauthorized people out.
- Use tool tethering or secured storage when required by the task or site plan.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Establish exclusion zones below overhead work and keep unauthorized people out.
- Use tool tethering or secured storage when required by the task or site plan.
- Install toe boards, screens, canopies or other falling-object controls where needed.
- Do not stack loose material near an edge where vibration or contact can push it off.
- Coordinate overhead work with crews working on lower levels.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Starting the move before there is a clear destination and route.
- Handling a load that blocks vision or shifts without enough people or a mechanical aid.
- Stacking material where it can roll, tip, slide or obstruct emergency/access routes.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- The load weight, route, center of gravity or handling method is uncertain.
- Storage, racks, cribbing, carts or landing areas are unstable, overloaded or blocked.
- The crew cannot maintain visibility, communication or clear hand/foot placement during the move.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What does this load weigh, where is its center of gravity/awkward side, and what does that mean for the number of people or equipment we need?
2. What route are we using, and where will vision, footing, doors, stairs, traffic, or other workers make the move harder?
3. Who is calling the move, and what lifting aid/cart/team method are we using instead of trying to muscle through a bad position?
4. Where will the material be set down or stored so it cannot roll, tip, slide, blow over, or block access?
5. What lifting aid, additional person, or different method should be considered instead?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB
Walk the move from pickup to set-down and identify the pinch points and where vision will be blocked.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW
Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

Reference: 29 CFR 1926.501(c) - Protection from Falling Objects

LidLog

ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Dropped Objects & Falling Materials

Project / Job:		**Date:**	
Talk leader:		**Location:**	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

[ ] Crew can point to the main hazard.	[ ] Critical control is in place and usable.
[ ] The responsible person/check is clear.	[ ] Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.