



TOOLBOX TALKS

Focus Four Struck-By Toolbox Talk #4

Equipment: 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.

Here is an Example:

Willie was a laborer picking up debris at a construction site. A forklift was lifting a pile of lumber to the third floor next to him. The lumber was not secured and fell three stories from the forklift. One board struck Willie in the head. He was wearing a hard hat, but the accident left him with a concussion.

1. What could have been done to prevent this accident?
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?
4. What do you do to protect others?

Preventing 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 forklifts, cranes, or any sort of material handling when materials are being lifted overhead.
- ◆ Hard hats can help minimize injuries to the head and therefore your spine also.
- ◆ 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, debris, nuts and bolts, nails, screws, and equipment.
- ◆ 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 being made available all the time.
- ◆ Even when taking all of the above cautions, items can shift, winds can gust or change, workers can lose their grip, someone can accidentally kick an object, or any number of other things can happen to allow objects to become airborne and drop to lower levels.



OSHA and our construction industry partners, such as the Mid-Atlantic Construction Safety Council, have initiated a "Focus Four Hazards" campaign throughout OSHA's Region III's jurisdiction. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness in the recognition, evaluation, and control of these hazards. Focus Four Hazards account for the vast majority of injuries and fatalities in the construction industry.

