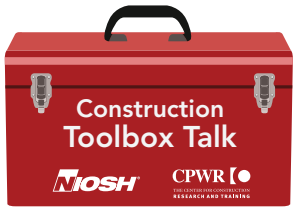

Preventing Falling Objects

Being struck by falling objects is a leading cause of construction fatalities. Even a small object can cause serious or fatal injuries if it falls from a higher level.

Ted and Sara's Story

Ted was working on a scaffold. He laid down his hand tool and it slipped off the edge of the scaffold and hit Sara on the shoulder. Sara suffered cuts and bruises.

- What caused this incident?
- How could this have been prevented?
- Have you ever been struck by a falling object on a jobsite, or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- **Always** secure **all** tools in elevated work areas if they are close to leading edges.
- Secure hand tools, such as with a tool lanyard or holster, to prevent them from falling to a lower level.
- Secure loads before lifting and moving them with lifts or cranes.
- **Do not** hoist or pass loads over people.
- Stack materials neatly to keep them from toppling over.
- Ask your employer to use a debris net or place toe boards on **all** scaffolding and open edges to prevent tools and materials from falling onto workers below.
- **Always** wear a hard hat and other appropriate personal protective equipment.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent injuries from falling objects?

OSHA Standard: 1926.501(c)

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
NIOSH National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
CPWR The Center for Construction Research and Training

Construction Toolbox Talk

NIOSH CPWR

Preventing Falling Objects

- ☑ Secure **all** tools close to leading edges in elevated work areas.
- ☑ Secure hand tools with a tool lanyard or holster to prevent them from falling.
- ☑ **Always** wear a hard hat.

GET INFORMATION

CDC/NIOSH INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-800-232-6348 | cdc.gov/info | cdc.gov/niosh
CPWR: Contact 301-578-8500 | cpwr-r2p@cpwr.com | www.cpwr.com/toolbox-talks
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2022-134 | DOI: https://doi.org/10.26616/NIOSHPUB2022134 | August 2022