

# Toolbox Talk

## Struck by Falling Objects



### What?

- The company has an obligation to provide and maintain a safe place of work for employees and others
- This includes taking steps to avoid objects falling and striking people
- Workplaces and plant which are initially safe can easily become dangerous unless they are properly controlled
- It's important to examine all those situations in the workplace where material and equipment can fall and strike people



### Why?

- Falling objects whether large or small pick up momentum and kinetic energy as they fall so that by the time they strike something, the stored energy has reached a level where it can easily prove fatal
- Personal protective equipment such as hard hats and safety footwear can lessen the severity but the key preventative measure is to stop things falling in the first place
- It is therefore extremely important to ensure things are properly secured to prevent falling, particularly when working at heights
- However if there are still residual risks of falling material, the area below should be secured using barriers and where necessary a "look out" posted to Keep personnel well away from the danger zone

### Do



- ✓ Place loose items in secure boxes to prevent them falling
- ✓ Erect toe-boards to stop material slipping off of platforms
- ✓ Make sure stored items are securely placed on shelves
- ✓ Use cord to attach hand tools to your wrist if there is a danger of them falling from a height
- ✓ Check that items attached to equipment are properly secure and can't accidentally fall off
- ✓ Report any equipment which appears loose or unsecured causing it to fall or topple
- ✓ Watch out for loose items near openings or edges where they can fall through
- ✓ Erect barriers below areas where material can fall and post a lookout where necessary
- ✓ Always make sure anything placed upright is properly secured to prevent it toppling
- ✓ Wear suitable PPE to protect against falling objects such as the head, face and feet
- ✓ Report all unsafe conditions

### Don't



- ✗ Forget to assess the task and workplace to ensure that nothing can accidentally fall
- ✗ Place tools or other loose items near edges or on ladder platforms
- ✗ Transport equipment near guardrails where it might fall over or through the rail
- ✗ Leave tools or other items on surfaces where they can fall or be knocked off
- ✗ Prop up material or equipment where it can topple or fall
- ✗ Ignore damaged plant or equipment or loose items which can be detached from the equipment
- ✗ Work at height without securing the area below if items can fall
- ✗ Continue to work if someone enters an area where they may be struck by something falling