TOOLBOX TALKS » OBJECTS AT HEIGHTS » DROPPED OBJECTS RISK AWARENESS & PREVENTION



DISCUSSION DATE:

EMPLOYEE PARTICIPANTS:

TOPIC: DROPPED OBJECTS RISK AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Objects at Heights is fall prevention for the tools workers bring to heights. Let's drop knowledge, not tools.

// THE RISK

- » Drops defined: Any object (not worker) that falls from its previous position, from a bolt to a boom of a crane.
- » Caused by: Elements (environment, sweaty hands, etc.) and workers/equipment (tripping/colliding, not following procedures etc.).

// THE COST

- » Injury + Fatalities: 255 deaths & aprox. 48,000 injuries in 2016 including bystanders/ workers struck by falling objects, falls from height from workers reaching for dropped objects and accidents caused by poor housekeeping.
- » Damage: to object itself or something it hits below, structure being worked on (like a aircraft wing), the environment (like spills into bodies of water), or by becoming a foreign object/material (like an engine manufacturing facility leaving a small bolt inside one of their engines).
- » Lost productivity: either financial loss when work stops or lost time from retrieving the object.

// SOLUTIONS

- » Personal Protective Equipment PPE: like hard hats and safety glasses. Important to overall safety plan, but always the last line of defense vs. dropped objects -- don't stop there!
- » Administrative Controls: changing the behavior of workers through training (like a toolbox talk!) or new policies and procedures.
- » Engineering Controls: prevent against drops vs. mere protection (hard hats). Include passive controls like toeboards and active controls like tool lanyards.

// THE 3 T'S OF OBJECTS AT HEIGHTS SAFETY

- » Trapping: retrofit attachment points on tools and primary anchoring points. Attachment points should never impair the tool's primary function.
- » Tethering: retention of tools and equipment being used to anchor points that hold them, most commonly with tool lanyards.
- » Topping: Tool bags, pouches and hoist buckets should have a secure closure or "top" to prevent spills if inverted.

If you remember nothing else: Gravity doesn't discriminate. First day on the job or a 20-year vet, drops will happen. Prevention is essential.

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