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HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



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DROPPED OBJECTS – ANOTHER ANGLE

A rash of recent potential and actual Dropped Object Incidents has us looking for another way to address this potential deadly hazard.

When we think about **Dropped Objects**, we often picture tools or materials falling from heights. But not all dropped objects come from above. A “dropped object” is ***anything that can fall or shift from its original position and cause harm.***

Hidden Hazards to Consider

- **Ground-Level Drops** – Hand tools, shackles, or fittings can slip from waist height or even off a workbench. These can still break toes, damage equipment, or create tripping hazards.
- **Shifted Loads** – Items inside toolboxes, gang boxes, or supply racks can shift during movement. Opening a door or lid may cause an unexpected spill.
- **Vehicle Hazards** – Loose items in trucks, forklifts, or cranes can bounce out when equipment starts, stops, or turns.
- **Stored Energy** – Materials leaning against walls, pipes stored improperly, or cylinders not secured can “drop” when gravity finally wins.

What You Can Do

1. **Secure it** – Tie off tools, use nets, and store items properly.
2. **Check it** – Inspect racks, baskets, and tool storage before moving.
3. **Clear it** – Never stand under or beside a load being moved.
4. **Think differently** – Ask yourself: *If this object moves or shifts, who could it hurt?*

Takeaway

Dropped objects aren’t just about working at heights—they can happen anywhere. Stay alert, secure your gear, and treat every loose item as a potential hazard.

SAFETY ALERT

