

# Guidance

## Dropped Objects Before Work Begins

### Before Work Begins

Prior to work at height being carried out there should be a risk assessment and a method statement which details procedures, specifications for tools, equipment, systems and provides where necessary checklists.

### People need Knowledge, Awareness, Experience, & Compliance

### Dropped Tools

Before you begin any kind of task, think about the possibility of dropped tools and objects:

### Recommendations

- Any tools being used at height need to be anchored against dropping.
- Lanyards, tethers along with connectors must always be used in between the tools and belt or bag.
- There needs to be a weak link or safety provision in between the tool and tethering system on the belt or bag.
- Wrist straps should only be used if they provide protection against injury caused by de-gloving.
- When there is a need for more tools, a tool bag / belt with structural anchorage loops must be used.
- If the method statement requires it, always log tools in and out on the tool register, to make sure that no tools have been left behind.
- Put in place barriers below the work area & make sure the extent of the barrier area is appropriate for work being done at height.
- Make sure that any grating is safe and make use of mats and temporary covers where you have the possibility of small items to fall through gaps.
- Wherever a scaffolding platform must be used, make sure toe-boards are fitted.
- Continue to be aware of other activities taking place around and beneath you

Check the equipment and structures within the work area to make sure that any kind of fasteners, bolting, covers etc are properly secured.

Tools, equipment and materials needs to be secured in a secure location at the end of each shift.

Once the work is completed, a final check and inventory count should be carried out to make sure that no tools, equipment or materials have been left behind at height.

The actual worksite needs to be left in a tidy and clean condition, and all tools, equipment and materials must be returned to their designated storage place.

## LEADING EDGE

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# Guidance

## Dropped Transportable Equipment

A significant number of reported incidents relate to dropped radios, pagers, gas detectors as well as other transportable equipment.

### Recommendations

- All handheld devices used at height needs to be secured against dropping.
- Carrying pouches should always be used for radios and all other transportable equipment without any dedicated attachment point.
- The locks for the pouches will need to have a double securing mechanism to protect against accidental opening.
- Belt clips that permit the radio to become detached when turned 180 degrees should never be used.
- Possibility for dropped objects when carrying repair and installation work
- Accidents whilst working at height can be serious and a very high amount of reported incidents is a result of repair and installation work.

### Recommendations

- All repair and maintenance work at height needs to be risk assessed.
- All parts, equipment and materials used at height need to be anchored against falling.
- Small components need to be kept in appropriate storage containers or similar.
- Once the tasks are complete, a final check needs to be carried out, to make sure that no materials or equipment has been left at height.

Keeping your worksite tidy can reduce incidents

### Recommendations

- Just before work begins, visually examine the work area for loose objects and debris.
- Check the equipment and structures within the work area to make sure that any kind of fasteners, bolting, covers etc are properly secured.
- Tools, equipment and materials needs to be secured in a secure location at the end of each shift.
- Once the work is completed, a final check and inventory count should be carried out to make sure that no tools, equipment or materials have been left behind at height.
- The actual worksite needs to be left in a tidy and clean condition, and all tools, equipment and materials must be returned to their designated storage place.

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