Guidance

The prevention of dropped tools & objects while working at height

Dropped tools can do harm to people, damage to machinery as well as generate costs associated with lost production time. Some typical examples of the consequences associated with dropping tools and object shows the likely-hood of injuries or even death from falling objects, relative to the mass as well as height from which a drop occurs

A bolt dropped from 23 metres is actually equivalent of being dropped from the 6th floor of a building. The actual speed attained is 50mph / 80kph on impact. The bolt achieves a mass impact weight of 49.5kgs at this time, resulting in a fatal injury even though struck on the head while wearing a hard hat.

A screw driver dropped from 14 metres is equivalent of being dropped from the 4th floor of a building.
The velocity attained is 38mph / 61kph on impact. The screw driver achieves a mass impact weight of 73.5kgs at this time, causing a fatal injury even though hit on the head whilst wearing a hard hat.

A claw hammer dropped from 6 metres is equivalent of being dropped from the 2nd floor of a building.
The speed attained is 24mph / 39kph on impact. The claw hammer achieves a mass impact weight of 117kgs at this point, resulting in a fatal injury even if struck on the head whilst wearing a hard hat. This is a guide only and in reality even a light-weight object dropped from a significant height may well turn out to be fatal.

Prior to when work starts

Prior to work being performed there needs to be a risk assessment and a method statement which details types of procedures, specifications for tools, equipment, systems and provides where required checklists.

Read: Tool Safety Guidance Risk Assessment Checklist

Workers require Know-how, Awareness, Expertise, and also Compliance

Dropped Tools

There is a significant possibility of dropped tools and objects any time handling tools at height. Before beginning any type of task, think about the possibility of dropped tools and objects:

LEADING EDGE
Tool Safety Solutions Ltd
Unit 5
Glenmore Business Park
Aerodrome Road
Gosport
Hampshire
United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0) 1329 550 121
Fax +44 (0) 1329 550 470
Email sales@leadingedgesafety.co.uk
Web toollanyardsbagsandbelts.com

Guidance

Dropped Tools

There is a significant possibility of dropped tools and objects any time handling tools at height. Before beginning any type of task, think about the possibility of dropped tools and objects:

Recommendations

- Any tools used at height must be anchored against falling.
- Lanyards, tethers together with connectors should always be used in between the tools along with belt or bag.
- There should be a weak link or safety provision in between the actual tool and tethering system on the
- belt or bag.
- Wrist straps must only be put into use if they give protection against injury due to de-gloving.
- When there is a need for additional tools, a tool bag / belt together with structural anchorage loops
- should be used.
- If the method statement calls for it, at all times record tools out and in in the tool register, to ensure that no tools have been left behind.
- Put in place barriers under the work area and make sure the actual extent of the barrier area is
- appropriate to the work being done at height.
- Make certain that any kind of grating will be safe as well as make use of mats as well as non permanent covers where you have got the possibility of small items to fall through gaps.
- Wherever a scaffolding platform must be used, make sure toe-boards are fitted.
- Continue to know about other activities happening around and beneath you
- Dropped transportable equipment
- A number of reported occurrences relate to dropped radios, pagers, gas detectors along with other mobile or portable equipment.

Recommendations

- All handheld devices used at height must be secured against dropping.
- Carrying pouches ought to always be used for radios and all other mobile or portable equipment with no dedicated connection point.
- The locks for the pouches should have a dual securing system to safeguard against unintentional opening.
- Belt clips that enable the radio to become detached when turned 180 degrees shouldn’t be used.
- The likelihood for fallen items in the course of repair and installation.
- Work at height is serious and it is shown in a considerable amount of reported incidents.

Recommendations

- All repair along with maintenance work at height needs to be risk assessed.
- All components, equipment as well as materials used at height have to be anchored against dropping.
- Small components should be held in suitable storage containers or equivalent.
- Once the tasks are finished, a final check should be performed, to ensure that no materials or
- equipment has been left at height.
- Constantly keep your worksite tidy

LEADING EDGE
Tool Safety Solutions Ltd
Unit 5
Glenmore Business Park
Aerodrome Road
Gosport
Hampshire
United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0) 1329 550 121
Fax +44 (0) 1329 550 470
Email sales@leadingedgesafety.co.uk
Web toollanyardsbagsandbelts.com

Guidance

Constantly Keep Your Worksite Tidy

Recommendations

- Just before work begins, visually check out the work location for loose items and debris.
- Check the equipment and also structures within the work place to make certain that any type of fasteners, bolting, covers etc are properly secured.
- Tools, equipment as well as components should be secured in a secure area at the end of each shift.
- Once the job is finished, one last check as well as inventory count ought to be completed to be certain that no tools, equipment or materials have been left behind at height.
- The actual worksite should be left in a tidy and clean condition, and all tools, equipment and materials should be returned to their designated storage place.

Further Considerations

Even when you're current activity is not at height, take into account the surroundings in which you will perform the activity as well as any other activities which may be taking place close to you.
Low-level applications include things like stopping tools from falling into motors and gearboxes, food and pharmaceutical production lines, underground shafts etc.
High-level applications may include construction sites, wind turbines, cranes, buildings, bridges, telecommunications masts, electrical power lines, railway gantries, aircraft hangers, steel structures, buildings, Scaffolding, towers etc

Sectors in which control of tools is critical includes:

Airline Industries, Aerospace, Automotive, Civil Engineering, Construction, Demolition, Energy, Environment, Factory, Food, Inspection at height, Marine, Nuclear, Mechanical and Electrical, Military, Oil and Gas, Onshore and Offshore, Pharmaceutical, Plant and Machinery, Powered Access, Process and Chemical Plant, Rail, Roof and windows, Shipping, Steel, Telecommunication, Utilities,to name merely a few.

Tool Safety (Leading Edge) answer to these kinds of pressing needs

One of the greatest issues using tools at height relates to conduct, work procedures and inadequate securing of tools and equipment. Leading Edge (exclusively distributed by Leading Edge in Australia) has produced a range of tool lanyards, tethers, bags and belts to offer satisfactory securing of tools and equipment while working at height.

LEADING EDGE
Tool Safety Solutions Ltd
Unit 5
Glenmore Business Park
Aerodrome Road
Gosport
Hampshire
United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0) 1329 550 121
Fax +44 (0) 1329 550 470
Email sales@leadingedgesafety.co.uk
Web toollanyardsbagsandbelts.com