

## Struck By - Falling Objects

Anytime work is done above an employee—whether it be on a ladder or a ten-story building or if an employee is working where materials or equipment are above them (like an excavation) a struck-by hazard is possible. We can take several measures to prevent harm to others, as well as a critical precaution to prevent harm to ourselves.

- To keep materials from falling onto someone, keep materials a sufficient distance from the leading edge. Materials stored on rooftops or buildings should be kept at least six feet away from the leading edge.
- When removing and storing dirt from an excavation, be sure to keep the spoil piles at least two feet away from the edge of the excavation.
- Even if a tool is dropped or kicked near a leading edge, toeboards can further prevent an incident. Toe boards are often forgotten or left out as a standard safety measure because they add time and materials needed to complete jobs. Yet having toe boards in place adds an extra level of risk prevention, protecting materials, tools, and workers.
- Loads should not be hoisted or allowed to pass over people.
- Materials should be stacked and secured appropriately and not leaning or ready to topple over.
- Use barricades to block off an area where workers are not allowed—below the work area.
- Combine barricades with signs “Entry is Prohibited” and “Overhead Work”.
- The most obvious precaution that’s in place to protect you from a struck-by incident is a hard hat, that must be worn 100% of the time while on site. Do not leave your hard hat where you are working and walk the site, that’s probably when you are going to need it the most.

Even when taking all the above cautions, items can shift, winds can gust or change, workers can lose their grip, someone can accidentally kick an object, or any number of other things can happen to allow objects to become airborne and drop to lower levels. So, listen and watch as you walk the site and get off the cell phone

