

General Tips for Dropped Object Free Worksites

Before starting any task, consider and identify the potential for dropped objects. Even if your task is not at height, consider the environment where you will perform the task and any other activities that may be going on around you.



Pay particular attention to environmental factors such as wind, ground disturbance, helicopter downdrafts, heave, swell etc.

Before commencing the task, visually inspect the work area for pre-existing dropped object hazards such as loose items and debris.

Check all equipment and structures in the area to ensure that all fastenings, bolting, clips, covers, panels, hatches, removable guardrails etc are properly secured.

Check all secondary retention features are in place (eg split / cotter pins, lock wire, lock washers etc).

Check all safety securing devices (if fitted) are in place, secured to sound structure.

Look out for moving machinery, cranes, vehicles etc and identify all paths of travel and potential for collision or load shift.

Ensure all guards, barricades, toe boards etc are in place and close / cover any hatches, openings and gaps.

Identify lighting, cable trays, brackets and other fixtures; particularly any corroded items that may not be secure or may present a snagging / collision hazard.

Inspect all Tools and Equipment (lanyards, securing points, tool bags), check inventory and create a log of all items to be taken aloft that must be returned.

Remove all loose items from pockets and toolbags and secure them properly.

Dynamic Dropped Objects : GRAVITY is a *constant* hazard at every worksite.

Combining Gravity with other hazards such as Motion, Mechanical Movement, Vibration and Loading, Helicopter Downwash, Temperature, Electrical or Pressurised Equipment; *including Manual Lifting or Access*, creates potential for dynamic dropped objects. Identify all of these hazards, eliminate the source if possible. Ensure these hazards are discussed during planning and tool box talks, risk assessed, controlled and managed throughout the task.



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For further details of DROPS Guidance, Resources, Membership or Training:

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