



Learning Event



WORKING AT HEIGHT

HAZARD
Physical
(Object at height)

**Person in
Line of Fire**

CONSEQUENCES

Actual: No harm to persons

Potential: This could have caused a fatality

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO SECURE WORK EQUIPMENT TO PREVENT DROPPED OBJECTS WHEN WORKING AT HEIGHT?

What Happened?

A scaffolding team was in the process of completing final adjustments to the scaffolding erected around a new crane pedestal. A scaffolding kickboard weighing 2.4 kg was accidentally dropped from the upper platform, falling from a height of 6.5 metres. At the time of the incident, no barriers or exclusion zones had been installed beneath the area where materials were being passed and handled. No-one was positioned below the work area, but the location directly below the drop zone was an active walkway frequently used by personnel performing welding tasks around the pedestal area. DROPS calculations rate the potential consequence as fatal.

Why did it Happen?

- Erecting and final adjustments of the scaffolding were not factored in as part of the working at height activity. As a result:
 - Items stored at height were not tethered or secured.
 - The area directly beneath and immediately surrounding the scaffold erection zone had not been barricaded to isolate it as an exclusion zone.
- Failure to discuss proposed activities at the worksite with all other parties working in the same area.

What did they Learn?

- Tether or secure all items that are stored or staged at height.
- Hold a toolbox conversation between all groups working in the same area (e.g., scaffolders and welders) before starting work.
- When assessing risks consider work preparation and other simultaneous activities.
- Install barricades and implement exclusion zones whenever items are being stored or used, or people are working, at height.

Ask yourself or your Crew:

- How effective is your transition to work process in ensuring all groups working in the same area are involved in assessing the risks before work commences?
- What work practices do you follow when working at height to minimise the risk of drops and keep workers below safe?
- How do you secure scaffolding components while erecting, altering or dismantling scaffolding?
- What are the intrinsic safety features (clamps, locks, etc.) of the scaffolding that you use on site? How do you know they are in place and working as intended?



IOGP Life-Saving Rules

- ✓ Be positioned to avoid dropped objects
- ✓ Establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones
- ✓ Take action to secure loose objects and report potential dropped objects
- ✓ Secure tools and work materials to prevent dropped objects



Safer Together
Assist and Assure
(Step 7 Process)

SCAN ME



Safe Work Australia
General Guide
for Scaffolds and
Scaffolding Work

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