STOP the DROP Task Force

Prevent Dropped Objects from Mobile Elevated Work Platforms and Scaffolds

A dropped object is any item that falls from its previous position. A small bolt, tape measure, battery, fitting, or piece of debris can cause a serious injury when it falls from height. Hard hats reduce injury severity, but they do not replace prevention.

Plan Before the Platform Goes Up

- ☐ Identify who could be exposed below and establish the drop zone before elevating.
- ☐ Inspect the platform, guardrails, gate, floor, toe boards, tool tethers, containers, and attachment points.
- ☐ Take only the tools and materials needed for the task. Confirm the platform capacity and distribute the load safely.
- ☐ Check wind, weather, surface conditions, nearby traffic, and the equipment manufacturer's operating limits.
- ☐ Decide how materials will be raised, stored, used, and lowered without being carried loose or placed on rails.

The Four Stop the Drop Controls

CONTROL	WHAT GOOD LOOKS LIKE
Tool Tethering 	Use a rated tethering system appropriate for the tool and its weight. Connect only to an approved attachment point or system. Secure removable parts such as sockets, bits, batteries, and accessories. Keep the personal fall-protection system separate from tool tethers.
Barricading 	Establish and maintain a clearly marked exclusion zone below and around the work. Use the level of barricade required by the site and the exposure. Control access with signs or a spotter when needed. Never rely on a hard hat as the primary control.
Material Securement 	Use closed containers, parts bags, buckets with secure lids, toe boards, screens, or panels as needed. Keep the platform clean. Do not place tools or materials on guardrails, controls, toe boards, or outside the platform.
Safe Cargo 	Raise and lower materials in a controlled manner. Secure everything before moving, elevating, lowering, or repositioning the platform. Do not throw materials or carry loose items that can roll, bounce, or be blown out.

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Equipment Specific Expectations

Scaffolds

- ☐ A competent person must inspect the scaffold and falling-object controls before use and after conditions change.
- ☐ Install toe boards, screens, paneling, guardrail systems, debris containment, canopies, or barricades when people below may be exposed.
- ☐ Do not stockpile loose material near platform edges. Keep access points and working decks clear.

Scissor Lifts

- ☐ Keep the entrance gate or chain closed and keep the deck free of loose items.
- ☐ Secure tools and materials before raising, lowering, or driving the lift. Never use the guardrail as a shelf.
- ☐ Maintain the exclusion zone as the platform changes position. Stop if the zone cannot be controlled.

Boom Lifts

- ☐ Expect platform movement, bounce, and swing. Secure tools and materials before operating the boom.
- ☐ Use only approved tool-tether attachment points or a rated containment system. Do not attach tool tethers to controls or components unless approved.
- ☐ Maintain required personal fall protection at all times. A tool tether does not replace the worker's fall-protection connection.

STOP WORK	Stop and correct the condition if an item cannot be secured, barricade is breached, wind can move material, platform is overloaded, a containment system is damaged or work below cannot be controlled.

Crew Discussion

- ☐ What tools, parts, or materials could fall during today's elevated work?
- ☐ Which items will be tethered or contained, and where are the approved attachment points?
- ☐ Who will establish and maintain the exclusion zone below?
- ☐ How will materials be raised and lowered without carrying them loose?
- ☐ What change in weather, access, or work conditions will cause us to stop?

Crew Commitment

We reviewed the hazards and controls for preventing dropped objects from scaffolds, scissor lifts, boom lifts, and other elevated platforms. We understand that work will stop until uncontrolled overhead hazards are corrected.

Prevent tools, materials, and debris from leaving the platform. No one should work or walk beneath an uncontrolled overhead hazard.

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