



Falling Objects Awareness

WHAT HAPPENED?

Over the past three months, there has been seven reports of objects which have fallen from height across different sites.

The falling objects include a pole, ladder, tail clamp (x2), lever hoist, earthstick and a magnetic drill. Four of the incidents were classified as near misses due to no injuries and two of the incidents resulted to minor injury requiring no treatment. One incident resulted to a hand being struck by a lever hoist that fell from store racking during housekeeping. This resulted in an injury requiring adjustment to their work to enable recovery.

Working at Height and Falling Objects is one of our 11 critical risks. The risk of falling objects is present when working on our assets like towers, lines, stations and in our sites. This risk means anyone at a lower level underneath the object is at risk of being struck by the falling object.

The severity of this risk harming our people is dependent on the weight of the object and the height from where they start to fall. The heavier the weight and the higher the object falls to the next level, the greater the harm.

For the incidents classified as near misses the objects fell within an exclusion zone and/or the falling objects were prevented from hitting a person or the ground using tool tethers. Both these measures are critical controls to prevent injury from falling objects.



Worker on MEWP using tool tether

Critical controls to prevent harm from falling objects.

The hierarchy of controls to eliminate or minimise the risk of falling objects include:

- **Elimination** – Organise the work to be carried out on the ground where practicable.
- **Minimisation** – If the risk of falling objects can not be eliminated:
 - Implement exclusion/drop zone. Include the bounce effect in consideration of drop zone.
 - Install edge protection where needed (e.g. scaffolding toeboard, MEWP toeboard, etc.)
 - Install net/screen when practicable to catch falling objects.
 - Use winches or hoist when lifting heavy tools, equipment and materials to upper levels when required.
 - Using appropriate lifting equipment when lifting loads (e.g. using lifting chain, swivelling hook, etc.)
 - Use appropriate tether for the equipment. (E.g. tethered tool bag for small materials).
 - Ensure that workers are competent for the task they are conducting.
 - Always follow procedures when lifting, handling, securing and removing objects aloft.
 - Always use PPE (hard hat) when there is a risk of falling objects from height.

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