



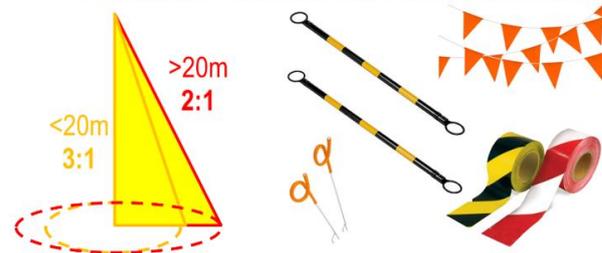
Alert

5 September 2025

Zero Harm – Drop Zones

What happened?

- Recently, a trend has been seen across several incidents where objects have fallen from height, and in some instances have hit members of the working team.
- Fortunately, these have not resulted in any serious injuries, but all have had the potential to have greater impact.
- Themes involved in these events include:
 - Communication** – When the crew were required to work within the exclusion / drop zone there was no clear communication with the crew working aloft.
 - Visual or Physical Demarcation** – Drop zones were not visually identifiable and/or did not have a physical barrier (e.g., tape, flagging, cone bars, etc.) to prevent inadvertent ingress into the drop zone.



Examples of exclusion / drop zone set up and items, including preferred ratio of exclusion zone to height of works.

What did we learn?

- The requirement to have drop zones is being more broadly implemented – however, the drop zone is not always visually identifiable, and the management of drop zones can improve.

Required Action

- Demarcation of Drop Zones** – all drop zones shall be visually demarcated and preferably with a physical barrier using extendable cone barriers, tape, flagging, or similar. The **preferred ratio is 3:1**, where for every **3 metres up**, the zone should go out **1 metre** up to a working height of 20m. At heights >20m, for every 2m up, the zone should go out 1m.
- Drop Zone Management** – Job pre-starts / crew briefings must discuss and identify how the risk of falling objects will be managed particularly when tasks are required to be completed within the drop zone while people are working aloft.
 - The crew should consider pausing work aloft while these tasks are completed or limit the time where this risk occurs and detail in writing how the crews on the ground and aloft will communicate to ensure the risk of a falling object hitting someone is mitigated.
- SWMS Update** – All SWMS related to working at height shall be reviewed and updated to reflect the actions in this Alert, with updates communicated to the team in due course.

Further Information

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Useful Resources

[DG-ZH-ST042 Working at Heights Standard](#)