

# EEA H&S Forum 2025

## Critical Risk – Falling Objects

Date: July 2025

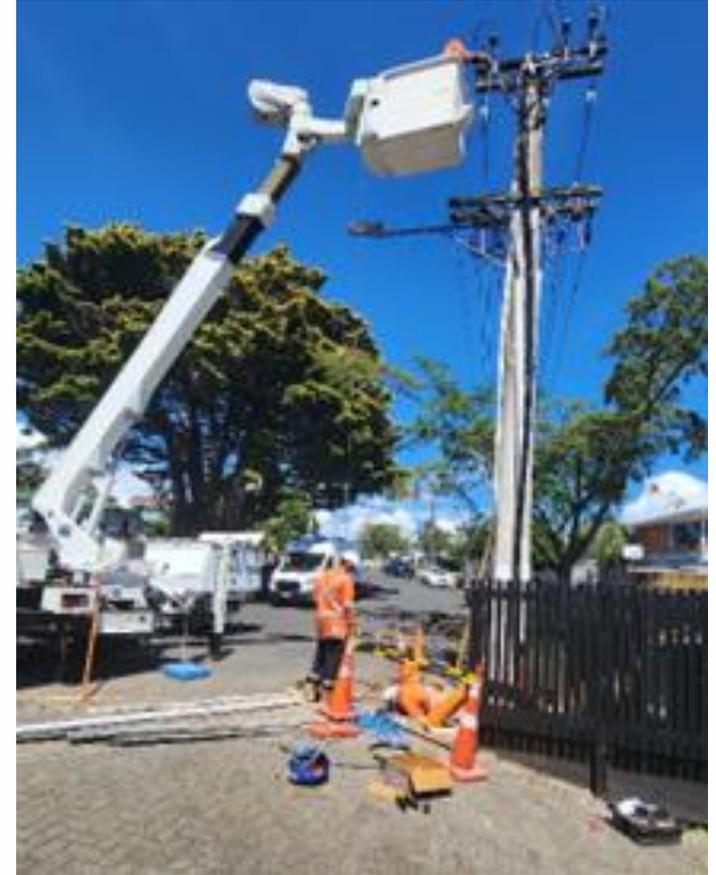
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# Critical risk – Falling Objects

## Lifting/Suspended loads



## Working aloft Equipment & tools



# In your group discuss...

(10 minutes)

- *Are falling object risk truly 'controlled' at sites?*
- *Do you have engineering controls in place or do they rely on worker behaviour?*

## One person in the group share...

1. If you could implement one engineering (or system) control, what would it be?
2. What is the biggest roadblock for managing falling objects?



# RISK MANAGEMENT



Hazards vary daily – weather, site layout, task type, equipment, and heights over 30m.



Risk-based approach essential to manage ‘work as done’, rather than ‘work as imagined’.



Dynamic risk assessments on-site and daily help identify real-time hazards.



Routine vs Non-Routine – adapt plans based on the type of work.



Tailgate Talks – share risks, controls, PPE, and emergency plans with the team.



Use PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT – WorkSafe NZ’s recommended approach.

# RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW

## EXCLUSION/DROP ZONES



Clear guidelines, colour-coded barriers, signage

## TOOL & LOAD MANAGEMENT



Mandate tethering, improve planning, reduce manual handling

## COMMUNICATION



Formalise use of radios, protocols for zone entry

## PUBLIC SAFETY



Barriers, signage, spotters for pedestrian/traffic control

## PLANNING & PREPARATION



Planning the job  
Safety in Design  
Methodology Design

# Next Steps

Uplift in managing the risk of falling objects

1. High-risk activities
2. 'Work as performed' – Worker engagement
3. Prevention controls
4. Consider multiple critical risks dynamically controlled



**Lastly.....**



**Would you support an EEA Best Practice Guide?**