

FALL PROTECTION PREVENTING DROPPED OBJECTS



WHAT TO DO

Before work begins, evaluate tools for potential fall or drop hazard. Then take a lanyard with the appropriate clips and connect one end to the tool and the other to a tool belt, wristband, scaffolding, or other nearby structure. Some tools may have a loop attached at the handle or incorporated into the tool itself to clip the lanyard to. For those that don't, your workers can use wrap tape or heat-shrink devices to make the tools ready for tethering.

Workers should avoid connecting tools weighing more than five pounds to their tool belts or wristbands. The excess weight could affect their balance and add to the injury risk while working from heights. It's best to tether heavier tools to the structure, scaffolding, or aerial lift unit.

Place small parts like hardware in a bag or bucket that closes at the top to prevent spills. Make sure to tether the bag.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Employers must provide suitable protections not only for those working at height but also those working below an elevated workspace or ladder.

Here in California, the regulation specifies netting and screens as ways to catch falling tools, or barricading as a way to keep people away from where tools may fall. Though not specifically mentioned in the Cal/OSHA standard, another option to consider is tethering (or tying off) the tools.

Struck-by injuries can be very serious and even fatal. There are several recorded fatalities because of a dropped measuring tape.



OUR STRATEGY

At UCR, it is common to have to work in areas occupied by faculty, staff, and students. Making sure anything you take up on a ladder or upper level is secured from falling is an important part of your job planning. Departments should review tasks that often occur on ladders or upper levels and select the appropriate barricades, tethers, nets, bags, and/or pouches to prevent these types of injuries from occurring.



Tool Transport Buckets



Pouches for Tool Transport



Pouches for Small-Parts Transport