TOOLBOX TALK

PREVENTION OF FALLING MATERIAL

Injuries and fatalities from falling objects are a serious concern each year. These accidents often occur due to inadequate communication, improper material storage, insufficient protection of elevated storage areas, mishandling of loads during movement or securing, lack of protective headgear, and poor housekeeping practices.

Types of Dropped Objects:

1. Static Dropped Object: Any object that falls from its original position due to its own weight (gravity), without any external force. Examples include failures caused by corrosion or vibration.
2. Dynamic Dropped Object: Any object that falls from its original position due to an external force. Examples include collisions involving moving equipment, machinery, snagging on stacked items, or dislodged tools.

Causes of Dropped Object Injuries:

- Inadequate signage warning about overhead work.
- Hand tools and equipment falling from higher levels.
- Loose boxes or objects displaced from stacked merchandise.
- Objects dropped by workers at higher levels.
- Loads lifted or carried overhead that are not properly secured.
- Poor housekeeping practices in elevated areas causing objects to fall.

Preventing Accidents from Falling Objects:

- Secure loads when using forklifts, cranes, or other material movers.
- Avoid hoisting or moving loads over people.
- Use barricades, signs, and caution tape to keep workers out of areas where loads are being lifted or lowered. Verbally warn workers of the dangers.
- Take precautions to prevent materials from falling while stacking on platforms.
- Maintain good housekeeping by keeping tools and materials away from edges.
- Install toe boards on all scaffolding, unprotected sides, and open elevations to protect workers below from falling materials like lumber, bricks, tools, debris, nuts, bolts, nails, screws, and equipment.

Discussion Points

1. How can we prevent dropped object incidents on-site?

2. How can a scaffold safe zone help protect others during work activities?