



Preventing Being Struck by Falling or Flying Objects

You are at risk of falling objects when near or beneath elevated work equipment. This can include cranes, lifts, hoists, boom trucks, bucket trucks, forklifts, stackers, pickers, and scaffolds. There is a danger of flying objects when power tools are used and when pushing, pulling, or prying occurs. Injuries can range from minor abrasions to serious ones such as concussions, fractures, blindness, or fatalities.

Avoiding Hazards:

General

- Wear hard hats to protect from potential falling objects.
- Never walk under a suspended load.
- Do not exceed load/weight limit capacities for hoists, lifts, and storage lofts.
- Do not overstack materials above recommended height.
- Stack materials to prevent sliding, falling, or collapsing. Secure with wrapping as appropriate.
- Use protective measures such as toe boards and debris nets when working on elevated areas such as walkways, platforms, storage lofts, and scaffolding.
- Maintain good housekeeping and organization practices.

Power Tools, Machines, etc.

- Use safety glasses, goggles, face shields, and other protective equipment where machines and tools may cause flying particles.
- Inspect tools and equipment, such as saws, grinders, drills, lathes, and brush and limb chippers to ensure that protective guards are in place and in good condition.
- Make sure you are trained in the proper operation of equipment and power of pneumatic actuated tools.

Cranes, Hoists, and Lifts

- All cranes, hoists, and lifts must be inspected and certified, as appropriate.
- Avoid working underneath moving loads.
- Barricade hazard areas and post warning signs in lifting zones.
- Inspect rigging to ensure that all components such as wire rope, lifting hooks, and chains are in good condition and have proper capacities.
- Do not exceed the lifting capacity of the equipment.
- Only use proper rigging.
- Never work under a suspended load without secondary containment.



Overhead Work

- Secure tools and materials to prevent them from falling on people below.
- Barricade hazard areas and post warning signs.
- Use toe boards, screens, or guardrails on scaffolds to prevent falling objects.
- Use debris nets, catch platforms, or canopies to catch or deflect falling objects.
- Keep safe distances away from fall zones when tree cutting or trimming is completed.

Compressed Gas Cylinders and Compressed Air

- Secure spare cylinders, as appropriate, to prevent them from falling or being struck by vehicles.
- Keep valve caps in place when not in use.
- Keep cylinders away from heat.
- Reduce compressed air used for cleaning to 30 psi, and only use with appropriate guarding and protective equipment.
- Never clean clothing with compressed air.

Injuries from falling or flying debris continues to be a leading cause of workplace injuries. These high-hazard work operations expose municipal employees to a range of injuries. Share this information with applicable staff and work with them to reduce these hazards and improve safety in the workplace.