Overhead work: prevent dropped objects

Talk 46 of 52 | Week 46 | Working at height

Leader: adapt this talk to today's electrical work and site procedures. See the educational-use and liability notice on page 2.

START THE CONVERSATION

Electricians are installing fixtures above a corridor that other trades want to use.

KEY TALKING POINTS

1. Plan separation between overhead work and people below. Establish the required protection and access controls before tools and fittings are carried up; verbal warnings alone are easy to miss.

2. Use suitable methods for securing tools and material where required by the task assessment. Do not improvise attachments that interfere with tool operation or create another entanglement hazard.

3. Keep platforms organized and avoid balancing parts on rails or unsecured surfaces. A small fitting can become a serious hazard when dropped onto someone below the work area.

4. Coordinate any necessary passage through the area with the person controlling the work. Pause overhead activity when the established separation cannot be maintained rather than asking people to hurry through.

5. At completion, check for loose components and remaining material before removing barriers. Include the area below in cleanup so a screw or offcut does not become a later slip or tire hazard.

6. Crew exercise: apply this discussion to one actual location in today's assignment. Describe the sequence from preparation through cleanup, identify who could be affected, and agree what must be in place before the first person starts. Use a drawing or a safe observation point; do not create an exposure for the demonstration.

7. Make the decision practical: name the person who will resolve missing information and confirm the controls. If the planned conditions change, stop the affected activity and obtain a revised plan. At the next briefing, review whether the agreed action was completed and what the crew learned.

ASK THE CREW

1. What is the most important hazard in our version of this task? **2.** What would make us stop and ask for a revised plan?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

Identify one task-specific improvement, assign a responsible person, and confirm it is in place before the affected work begins.

OSHA SOURCES / FURTHER READING

OSHA: Construction electrical safety

Attendance & action record

Overhead work: prevent dropped objects

Date: _____ Leader: _____

Company / jobsite: _____

Site hazards and controls discussed:

Follow-up action / responsible person / due date:

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Participant name	Signature / acknowledgment

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