

Tools Falling from Height

It is becoming more apparent that many potential serious and fatal accidents occur at construction sites where tools fall from height, mainly from scaffolds, mast climbers and other working platforms. This is exacerbated when many contractors are engaged in work in the same area.

We can attempt to “design out” much of the risk / potential for injury by taking the following hierarchy of controls:

- 1.Exclusion zones (must be secure and have signage and be realistic in depth in relation to the height being worked at).
- 2.Crash decks over any open voids where practicable
- 3.Tool tethering (many available including telescopic or fixed)

We must be careful not to get into the situation where tool tethering becomes the principal safety measure, at the expense of exclusion zones, but as another level of control tool tethering can play a vital role.

Education of the damage that falling objects can do is one of the ways to attempt to reduce these incidents. Below is an information board that was placed at a site entrance. From the images it becomes clear that even a light object, such as a tape measure, weighing just 400g falling from 40 metres can lead to a serious time lost injury/RIDDOR or even worse.



Site Notice Board Showing the Potential Implications of Various Falling Objects

Such information at a site entrance is useful for site operatives prior to commencement of a shift.

For Further Information Contact Andrew Hill (CAH Safety) – Tel 07557 003022