

Arizona Masonry Contractors Association

Falling and Flying Objects

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Potential life threatening hazards are everywhere in the daily work environment of a construction site which can include falling and flying objects. For instance, two employees were hoisting material using a wire cable sling. As the load was being lifted, the wire cable sling snapped back, hitting one of the workers in the head and killing him. The employee was not wearing a hard hat. Was this preventable? You bet!

To minimize and control the hazards of falling and flying objects and prevent any type of work-related injury or fatality, here are some safety precautions to consider.

1. Conduct a pre-job hazard assessment prior to doing any work to determine what safety precautions need to be considered.
2. Always wear your personal protective equipment such as a hard hat, safety glasses, face shields, and any other required equipment when working with power tools and machines.
3. Maintain good housekeeping rules to keep stacked material from sliding, falling, or collapsing onto workers.
4. Use protective measures such as toeboards, debris nets, screens, and canopies to deflect or catch falling objects.
5. Secure your tools and materials when working at elevated heights to prevent them from falling onto workers below.
6. Avoid working underneath loads being moved and hoisted.
7. Establish controlled access zones, barricades, and warning signs.
8. Inspect all tools, saws, grinders, and lathes to ensure guards are in good condition.
9. Inspect cranes, hoists, and all rigging equipment such as chokers, slings, chains, hooks, etc. to ensure all are in good condition.
10. Do not exceed lifting capacity of cranes, hoists, and rigging equipment.
11. Utilize appropriate guarding and protective equipment when using compressed air, and reduce the compressed air to 30 psi when cleaning.
12. Make sure you are trained in the proper operation of power tools, machines, rigging operations, and powder actuated tools.

AMCA's Safety Committee is committed to providing support in your efforts to keep your employees safe and healthy. Safety Clips can be used in any number of ways: toolbox training sessions, company newsletter article or used as an opener for discussions in manager/supervisor's meetings, etc. Safety Clips is a means to keep safety topics fresh and in the forefront of your busy days and to make it easier for you to turn around and share with others in your company. If there are additional email addresses you'd like to add to the distribution list forward them to lori@azmasonry.net.

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