Some people think that a dropped object is little more than a clumsy inconvenience. However, dropped objects can lead to serious injury or fatalities. In fact, dropped objects are amongst the top ten causes of serious injury or fatalities in our industry. Read on to understand what you can do to prevent dropped objects injuring you or a colleague.

**IDENTIFYING HAZARD AND TAKING ACTION**

Whilst removing 16ft tubes from a scaffold rack, a Stork employee noticed that there was something inside one being removed. He elevated the tube to allow the object to slowly descend in a controlled fashion, and a large threaded bar/bolt appeared out of the end of the tube. The hazard was brought to the attention of the platform management team.

**STRUCK FROM ABOVE!**

A scaffolder was struck on his left leg by a scaffold tube which became dislodged from a rope and fell approximately 15ft. He was flown onshore for further assessment at a local accident & emergency unit.

**FELL TO THE GROUND**

Two technicians were completing a scanning/inspection task on a large pipe weighing 600kg. While rotating the pipe the stand gave way on the opposite end to where the technicians were scanning and fell to the ground.
OBEY RULES FOR ‘AT HEIGHT’ TOOLS

- Tooling used at height must be lanyard attached to the user or workplace using an appropriate system
- Only ‘at height’ compliant tools should be used

SECURE YOUR WORK AREA

- When working at height, fence off areas underneath your work area
- Install toe boards when working at height
- Keep a tidy and organised work environment
- Remove or secure objects that could potentially fall

WORK SAFELY

- Always ensure that the correct PPE is being used to prevent the possibility of being injured by a dropped object, remember however that PPE is your last line of defence against injury
- Maintain good hazard observation at all times – never take your eye off the ball
- Look out for objects around you that could potentially fall

ENGAGEMENT

- Encourage your team to share experiences, like near misses or dropped object incidents
- Discuss how these near misses and incidents could have been prevented and identify ideas for improvement
- Overcome potential barriers to making those improvements

Share your thoughts, lessons learned or feedback with us by emailing: reachbeyonddzero@stork.com