

TAKE CONTROL

Being Hit by Objects

Information to help you prevent workplace injury and disease.

By identifying causes and assessing and controlling risks you can take control of health and safety in your workplace.

Risk indicators in the workplace

Some things to look for include:

- Objects falling off, for example, roofs scaffolding;
- Loads being lifted which are not well secured or are unstable;
- Material, such as timber or shelves which are over stacked;
- Shelves and benches not strong enough to bear the weight of the objects kept on them;
- Fixtures, such as pictures, ceiling panels and white boards not securely fixed to walls or ceilings;
- Objects which are heavy or frequently used being stored above shoulder height; and
- Employees having to reach for objects on shelving where those objects cannot be clearly seen.

Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- When work is carried out at heights, tools and equipment are kept secured, and if this cannot be guaranteed, then a safety barrier is installed and maintained to catch any falling object;
- Materials are not overstacked, but are instead stacked in such a way that they remain stable;
- Equipment used is capable of lifting and moving loads without toppling over;
- Loads to be lifted are well secured;
- Plant and equipment is only used for the purposes they were designed;
- Storage is well organised, with for example, frequently used or heavy objects are stored below shoulder height;
- Step ladders are provided to allow employees to access higher shelving;
- Strong shelving is installed;
- All fixtures are well secured and their security maintained; and
- Kick boards are provided on scaffolding, shelf edges and so on.

To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

Specific regulations to note in respect of this topic are:

Regulation 133 Scaffolding, Access Platforms and Working Platforms

Australian Standards applicable to this topic include:

[AS 1576](#) Scaffolding

[AS 1657](#) Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders – Design, construct and installation

[AS 1418](#) Cranes safe use (series)

NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.

For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or visit www.worksafe.nt.gov.au