



On September 7, 2011, a four foot scaffold tube weighing approximately 15 lbs was being hoisted via a rope during the construction of a scaffold. During the hoist, the tube slipped from the rope and fell approximately 28 feet striking one of the scaffold builders on his hard hat. The builder suffered only a laceration to his head because the hard hat did its job in preventing the scaffold tube from penetrating or fracturing the builder's skull.

The incident was classified as a HiPo because this potentially could have resulted in a fatal head injury.

Contributing to this injury was:

- **Pre-task planning/ Job Site assessment and personal behavior failed to control “Line of Fire” risks and the potential for a dropped object.**

Don't rely on permits and HITRA's alone. Everyone is “personally accountable” for performing their own hazard assessments and correcting unsafe behaviors and actions of their peers.

Line of Fire Assessments

- Do not become complacent.
- Ensure potential “Line of Fire” risks” are identified and discussed prior to beginning a job.
 - Material prep area was staged in “drop zone.”
- All lifting activities, regardless of size, should have “safe zones” clearly identified to prevent “line of fire” risks from falling objects.
 - Lifts shall not be started until all workers are in a “safe zone”.
- Establish safe egress areas to eliminate exposure to identified hazards.
 - Jersey barriers, vehicle traffic, sloping ground, and scaffold structures limited egress from work area and “drop zone”. Egress hazards were not identified in risk assessments and provisions to eliminate hazards were not identified.
- Maintain constant awareness of body position (hands, legs, head, etc.) with respect to identified hazards.
- Challenge your peers and “STOP” when things don't seem right.



REMEMBER: PPE is the Last “Layer of Protection”

- Hard hats are designed to reduce the forces of impact and penetration from falling objects when the unexpected happens and not the primary means of protection.

