



## February 12 — Dropped Material Hazard

<b>Saw worker cutting material on the sawhorse but realize once the cut was done the material would drop on the ground.</b>	<b>Brought it to workers attention to put a jack stand under said material to which they did.</b>
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A worker was cutting material on a sawhorse, but once the cut was complete, the unsupported section of material was going to drop to the ground.

The cut itself wasn't the problem the plan was. When material isn't supported on both sides of the cut, gravity takes over the moment the blade breaks through. That sudden drop can pull the tool, shift the material, or send the piece falling into legs, feet, or hands. What looks like a clean cut turns into an uncontrolled movement in a split second.

**The blade went through with sparks so bright,  
But down it fell with all its might.  
Support the piece before you start,  
So drops don't tear your work apart.**

Most dropped-object hazards aren't accidents they're predictable outcomes.

### Hazards

- Dropped material striking feet, legs, or hands
- Loss of tool control or kickback
- Pinch or crush injuries when material shifts
- Damage to tools or surrounding equipment
- Secondary falls or balance loss

### Stats

- Dropped objects are a leading cause of struck-by injuries in industrial work
- Many cutting injuries occur when material shifts unexpectedly
- Line-of-fire incidents often happen at the moment a task is completed
- Lack of material support is a common root cause in cutting-related injuries

### Words of Wisdom

- If it's going to fall, plan for it before you cut.
- Gravity always finishes the job.

### Pause and Think

When people focus on making the cut, they often forget to think about what happens after the cut. The danger window is not during the cut it's the instant the material separates. Supporting both sides of the workpiece turns an uncontrolled drop into a controlled movement.

- What happens to the material after the cut?
- Where is your body positioned when it drops?
- Who else is in the line of fire?