



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Tool Tethers Protect Against Falling-Object Injuries Safety Message

Gravity can be a killer. Many objects on worksites can become dislodged, dropped or kicked and fall onto a person below. Due to the pull of gravity, the farther an object falls, the faster it falls, creating force at the landing. For example, an 8-pound wrench dropped 200 feet would hit with a force of 2,833 pounds per square inch – the equivalent of a small car hitting a 1-square-inch area.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 52, 260 “struck by falling object” OSHA recordable incidents in 2019. That’s one injury that required medical intervention caused by a dropped object every 10 minutes across the U.S. Of those incidents, 247 resulted in a fatality. Tool tethers were designed to help prevent those types of incidents.

Think of tool tethering as fall protection for tools.

As with fall protection for humans, the proper set up for tool fall protection or tool tethering requires three elements:

- The tool,
- The tether, and
- The attachment point.

The three elements work together to form a safety system.