

Colorado's "Stop the Drop" Campaign: Preventing Construction Accidents

The "Stop the Drop" campaign is a safety initiative led by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Associated General Contractors of Colorado (AGC). The campaign, which runs from **October 7–11, 2024**, aims to raise awareness about the dangers of dropped objects on construction sites and promote preventive measures to ensure worker safety.



Image courtesy of AGC

Why is this campaign important? Dropped objects can range from small tools to large structural components, and their impact can be devastating. According to OSHA, the top four (4) causes of construction fatalities are: struck-by, caught-in/between, falls, and electrocutions. Struck-by incidents remain in the top four (4) causes of death in the workplace, with many of these incidents attributed to dropped objects. By focusing on preventing these incidents, the campaign seeks to reduce workplace accidents and save lives.

What are the key components of this campaign? Key components of the campaign includes:

- **Education and Training:** Educating workers about the risks of dropped objects and the best practices for preventing them.
- **Tool Tethering Systems:** Encouraging the use of tool tethering systems to secure tools and prevent them from falling.
- **Physical Barriers:** Implementing toeboards, handrails, and netting to catch dropped objects and prevent them from reaching workers below.
- **Awareness and Communication:** Promoting a culture of safety where workers receive encouragement to report potential hazards and communicate effectively about safety measures.

The "Stop the Drop" campaign is a crucial step towards creating safer construction environments. By addressing the issue of dropped objects head on, OSHA and AGC are working to protect workers and reduce the number of construction-related injuries and fatalities.

For more information on the campaign and preventing workplace injuries, visit the following resources:

- AGC: <https://www.agccolorado.org/stop-the-drop>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@stopthedrop-co>

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smscx.org/>.