

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Falling Objects

Contractors were removing lids from an in-feed conveyor in preparation for a job task. The conveyor was located at the top of the forming line approximately 70 feet above ground level. As one of the lids was being removed and handed off, the contractor on the catwalk lost control of the lid and it slid between the kick plate and mid-rail of the handrail, dropping to ground level below. The lid landed partially in the pedestrian pathway and partially in the main mobile equipment thoroughway.

At the time of the incident, a worker was traveling at ground level, and the lid landed about three feet in front of them. Fortunately, no injuries occurred. However, the ground area below did not have a red danger tape/tag barrier drop zone set up for the working-at-heights task.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- **Set up a drop zone:** Always ensure a red danger tape and tag control/drop zone is established when working at heights if there is a potential for objects to fall.
- **Control zone access:** Only workers involved in the job tasks and signed on to all required permits and tags should be authorized to enter the control zone.
- **Specific hazard identification:** Be specific when identifying hazards and the controls or mitigation measures.
- **Join the Canadian DROPS Chapter:** Consider joining to participate in ongoing efforts to prevent dropped objects. <https://www.dropsonline.org/about/drops-organisation/drops-canada-chapter/>



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

All working at heights activities are high risk including the potential of dropping tools or objects.

Hazard awareness is a part of every task we perform, taking time to understand, identify and reduce or eliminate any potential risk is essential to having and maintaining a safe work environment.



Join the Canadian
DROPS Chapter

