

TOOLBOX TALK for June 22, 2026 - *HOT WEATHER THIS WEEK - TAKE PRECAUTIONS*

### **Capenter's Training**

Tangent- MEWP, June 27th

Onterio- Forklift, June 27th

**Taper's** - Nothing scheduled

### **Hazard Awareness**

It's time to revisit our level of hazard awareness in the wake of the recent incident at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. While applying fireproofing on the first floor of the building, one of our fire proofers fell nearly 15 feet when the scaffold he was working from tipped over and went into the loading dock below. This was a serious incident that could have resulted in far more severe consequences. Fortunately, our employee escaped with only soreness and stiffness from the fall.

### **What Went Wrong?**

#### **1. Limited Visibility of Floor Hazards**

The floor in the work area was covered with tarps to catch overspray. While this helped contain material, it also made it difficult to identify floor hazards such as stub-ups and other obstructions. When hazards are hidden from view, the risk of an incident increases significantly.

#### **2. Scaffold Movement Near a Leading Edge**

The crew was moving the scaffold near a leading edge that was protected by a temporary guardrail system. As the scaffold was being moved, one of the wheels contacted the base of the guardrail. The wheel stopped moving, but the momentum of the scaffold continued forward. This caused the scaffold to tip, go over the guardrail, and ultimately fall over the edge.

#### **3. Failure to Follow Safe Moving Procedures**

Safe scaffold-moving procedures were not being followed at the time of the incident.

- The worker on top of the scaffold had not moved to the center of the platform to allow for repositioning.
- The worker on the ground was pushing the scaffold by the cross braces rather than moving it from the corners as required.

When working near an edge with a scaffold or lift, we must ensure that equipment cannot travel beyond the edge. An effective control method must be in place to prevent the equipment and workers from getting too close to the edge.

### **The Importance of Hazard Awareness**

Most importantly, we must recognize hazards before they become incidents and ensure that adequate controls are in place. This requires constant awareness and attention to our surroundings. Hazards exist on every jobsite. When they go unrecognized or are underestimated, the likelihood of an incident increases dramatically. Taking a moment to identify hazards, evaluate risks, and implement proper controls can prevent injuries and save lives. Stay alert, follow established procedures, and never assume a hazard has been addressed without verifying the controls in place.

[Toolbox Talk Submission](#)