

Sub : Falling object injury – Newspaper report

What happened?

This accident has been reported in one of the newspapers. The worker was standing at the bottom of a tower under construction in Dubai when an iron rod, 2.5 metres long and 18 centimetres thick, fell vertically from the 25th floor of the building. **The bar penetrated his back and came out through his pelvis.** The worker was airlifted from the site to the hospital, where he was immediately given antibiotics and painkillers.

The workers life was saved because the rod was left in his body until he arrived in the hospital.



■ The worker's life was saved because the rod was left in until he reached hospital All photos ET FILE

Recommendations

- Maintain good house keeping in the workplace
- Contain all loose materials in appropriate containers.
- Secure objects that can be dislodged by wind
- Dispose off scraps on completion of work
- Cover all unattended openings with a material that can withstand twice the intended load and ensure that it cannot be displaced from its location.
- Ensure provision of edge protection in floors, shafts, scaffoldings, suspended access etc., and monitor the same at regular intervals.
- Screen the gaps between the handrails and toe boards, appropriately, to avoid fall of materials through the same
- Ensure overhead protection if parallel work is undertaken overhead
- Hand tools used at higher elevations, particularly near the periphery of buildings, shall be secured to avoid their fall due to slippage
- Ensure proper rigging of materials before lifting the same. Barricade the lifting area to avoid unauthorized personnel. Avoid traveling load over personnel.
- Report all nearmiss cases to the concerned, for action
- Last but not the least, for such penetration injuries do not attempt to remove any such penetrated object as it may be detrimental to the victim. Call emergency services to arrange immediate medical attention.



Pictures courtesy : Emirates Today