

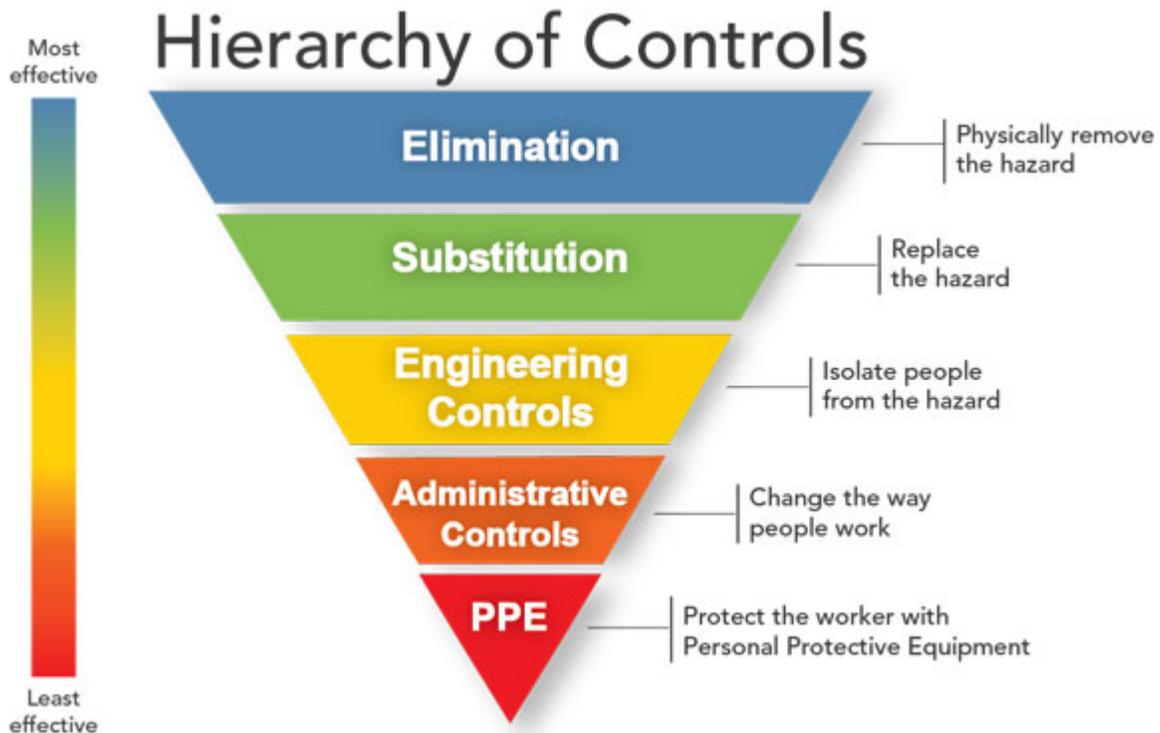


## Preventing Dropped Objects

**A dropped object** is an object that falls from its previous static position under its own weight with the potential to cause injury or equipment and environmental damage.

Worker safety and health is a top priority in the wind industry. Ensuring that workers in the industry understand and implement a fall protection program is ingrained. In an industry where working areas can exceed 300 feet above ground, securing tools and items is of paramount importance. Tools and items falling from any height is a problem, however, a tool or item falling while working in the wind industry endangers workers below. Even if a small object such as a bolt falls, it will generate an impact of 300 lbs and will cause moderate injury.

Follow the Hierarchy of Control and eliminate the issue of dropped objects.



\* NIOSH website - <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/>

How many times has something fallen out of your pocket? Even with closures, items find their way out of pockets. That cellphone in your pocket could fall out, which then could fall below, through the grates to cause an injury to your co-worker and at a minimum - cause you an extra climb down to the location of the item. Pockets are pretty handy but they are also a great source of dropped objects.



To ensure that everyone is safe from dropped objects:

- Notify others of overhead work
- Never carry items in your shirt or pants pockets. Harness straps can push items from both your shirt and pant pockets
- During the climb radios, cell phones, and pens/pencils are the most commonly dropped items
- While working up tower, medium to large tools (sockets, ratchet type tools, and specialty tools) are the most commonly dropped items



*\*visit the campaign website [www.awea.org/stopthedrop](http://www.awea.org/stopthedrop) and use the impact calculator to get a better understanding of the consequences of dropping objects.*

- Do not place items near the edge of a platform or near a hole (tower decks, bed plates, control boxes). If possible, place items on a secure and flat surface and make sure that the tools are secured
- If possible, cover any openings
- Do not create unnecessary hazard by not securing your tools
- Never climb below someone; ensure they have moved on to the next section of the tower with the hatch securely closed
- To avoid head and eye injuries, never look up when someone yells “headache” or “look out”
- Recognize known hazards and follow the controls in place
- Check areas after all work is completed
- Look after my colleagues
- Maintain good housekeeping
- Secure all tools and equipment when working at height. There are many ways to secure your tools, use them!

