

Toolbox Talk # 5.03 – Material Handling

Handling and storing materials involves many different activities such as hoisting steel beams, driving a truck loaded with concrete blocks, manually carrying bags or materials, and stacking supplies.

Movement and storage of materials-providing a continuous flow of raw materials and parts-is vital to your project. However, these activities can be dangerous. You can be injured by: improperly lifting materials (both manually and by machine), falling objects, and improperly stacked supplies. This handout gives you and overview of what OSHA expects your job site to look like and what you should do when storing and handling materials and supplies.

General requirements

Stored materials must be stacked, racked, blocked, interlocked, or secured some other way to prevent falling, sliding, or collapse.

Aisles and passageways must be kept clear providing for free and safe movement of material handling equipment or employees.

Material storage

Don't store any materials within six feet of any hoistway or inside floor opening, nor within ten feet of an exterior wall which does not extend above the top of the material stored.

Masonry blocks that are stacked higher than six feet, must be tapered back one-half block per tier above the six-foot level.

Lumber

Used lumber must have all nails withdrawn before stacking.

Structural steel, poles, pipe, bar stock, and other cylindrical materials, unless racked, must be stacked and blocked so as to prevent spreading or tilting.

Housekeeping

Storage areas must be kept free from accumulation of materials that constitute hazards from tripping, fire, explosion, or pest harborage. Vegetation control will be exercised when necessary.

Cutting down on materials handling & storage accidents make safe materials storage and handling a priority for your company.

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Project: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Company: _____

Other safety issues covered or comments from crew members:

Attendees:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
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