



Dropped objects – Loading Bays

An incident occurred recently on one of our projects where a number of bricks fell from a loading bay falling approximately 12m to the floor. No injuries were sustained as a result of the incident.

The pallet of bricks had been lifted on to a loading bay using a telehandler, the up and over gate was dropped down and a bricklayer then split the packaging and banding to distribute the bricks across the scaffold level, leaving half a pallet of bricks un-banded on the loading bay.

An empty motor tub was then lifted up to the same level and when the loading bay gate was opened it caught the edge of the pallet of bricks and approx. 30 bricks fell from the loading bay and landed at the foot of the scaffold within the exclusion zone.

Significant findings:

- Once the packaging and banding was removed from the brick pallet the loading bay gate shouldn't have been opened until the bricks were removed from the loading bay.
- Materials were positioned close to the loading bay gate hindering its operation and increasing the potential for materials to be knocked off during opening/closing.
- The telehandler was struggling to position the pallet of bricks far enough back on the loading bay due to the height and angle of the lift

Learning points:

- Where materials are positioned on loading bays the gates must not be opened unless all materials are either secured or sufficiently distanced away from the gate
- Loading bay decks should be constructed to allow pump trucks / trolleys etc to transport materials.
- All loading bays **MUST** have exclusion zones in place at their base to prevent person being below if materials should fall.



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REFERENCE

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DISPLAY UNTIL

SHE-ALT-2023_14

Mar 2023

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