

Safety Alert WAH – Tool Lanyards – If it's not tied on —It can fall.



Context:

Dropped tools can kill or seriously injure.

Tool lanyards are a critical control when working at height. If it's not tied on — it can fall.

Hazard:

The Risk

Objects dropped from height can strike:

- Workers below
- Students and members of the public
- Occupied walkways and teaching spaces

Even small hand tools can cause **serious injury or fatality** if dropped.

What is a Tool Lanyard?

A **tool lanyard** is a secondary securing device that:

- Connects the **tool to the worker**, or
- Connects the **tool to a fixed anchor point**

If the tool is dropped, the lanyard **prevents it from falling**.

Key Requirements

- ✓ Use **rated tool lanyards** suitable for the tool weight
 - ✓ Ensure tools are **compatible** with lanyards
 - ✓ Carry tools in **tool belts or secured bags**
 - ✓ Keep platforms clear of **loose tools and materials**
 - ✓ Establish **exclusion / drop zones** below work areas
- Do not carry tools in pockets.**

Use the Hierarchy of Controls

Tool lanyards are **not the only control**.

They must be used **together with**:

- Designing tasks to **avoid work at height**
- **Solid edge protection** (toe boards, infill panels)
- **Exclusion zones** and signage
- Good housekeeping and supervision

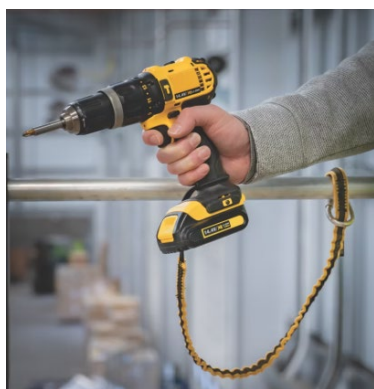


Figure 1: Tool lanyard and drill



Fig 2: Tool lanyard and tape measure



Figure 3: Tool lanyard and crescent

Actions Required:

Contractors & supervisors:

- Include tool lanyards in SWMS when working at height

Workers:

- Use tool lanyards as required

Unsafe work will be stopped.

Comments: