



# Major Bridges: Dropped Objects

No 468

September 2025



## Incident Description

An incident occurred recently where equipment fell from the Forth Road Bridge into the river below. The incident was attributed to vibrations caused by passing traffic, dislodging equipment that had been inadequately secured. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

The task briefing required the use of lanyards to secure the equipment, but they were not utilised.

This breach of the Work at Height (WAH) Regulations 2005 highlights a significant safety failure. The river below supports commercial shipping, a sailing school with young participants, and tourist sightseeing trips, any of which could have been severely impacted if the falling equipment had struck them.

## Recommendations

To prevent future incidents, it is essential that all equipment is securely fastened using appropriate lanyards and restraints in accordance with the WAH Regulations.

Workers should perform their own regular checks and verify the work of others, while work supervisors should conduct regular spot checks and safety inspections to ensure ongoing compliance with the regulations and the SSoW.

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Trainer Signature:

Date:

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