

SONOCO *Near Miss!*



Date: October 11, 2020

Activity: Moving Laundry Bags

What Happened:

One of our team members observed one of our crew moving a dirty laundry bag from the upper deck of a portable building unit by dropping it over the side of a handrail to the deck below.

A laundry bag weighs about 40 pounds when properly filled (and more if you fill it too much), so this is not an inconsiderable amount of weight falling from a height.

As it happened, there were a couple of guys walking out of the bottom building and they narrowly missed having this bag land on them! Only the quick thinking and loud shouts from our hand alerting them to danger saved them from harm.

Why it Happened:

The crew member was in a hurry and being lazy. This is a seriously reckless act that could have caused severe injury to someone. **And it was completely preventable.** The team member who reported this, after interceding, also stopped the process and then offered to help the worker with the other two laundry bags.

Typical Hazards:

- Lack of awareness in surroundings
- Heavy weight of laundry
- Employee in a hurry and taking shortcut

Corrective Actions:

Employees got together and agreed that they would help each other carry bags down the stairs. They also agreed that they would not overload the bags so they wouldn't be too heavy to handle.

Which is the theme of this Near Miss: Ask for help. We encourage you to take the time to carry the bag down the stairs with another person helping you. That way, you BOTH have a hand on the hand rail and maintain 3-point contact.

