



# SAFETY ALERT #36



August 31, 2009

*In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.*

## **DROPPED TOOLS PROVIDE INJURY FREE LESSON LEARNED**

### **What Happened**

On July 20, 2009, contract workers were lowering tools/materials from elevation utilizing a tool bag designed for this purpose (see photo at right). The bottom of the bag – made of a rigid, plastic material - broke causing the tools/materials to fall to grade level (see photo below). The area was properly barricaded and a hazard standby was keeping personnel away from the area when the incident occurred. One of the tools, a drift pin, struck the top window of a picker that was inside the barricaded area, breaking the window. At the time of the incident, the picker was unoccupied and no injuries occurred.



The investigation found that:

- Weight of tools in bag was well below design limit of manufacturer recommendations.
- The bag had deteriorated and should have been taken out of service.
- No pre-use inspection was performed on the bag.



### **Prevention:**

- All bags used to carry or lift materials must be inspected before each use to ensure the integrity of the bag.
- When not in use, bags should be stored out of the weather and sunlight. Over time, these elements will cause the materials to deteriorate.
- All tools/equipment should be inspected before each use, including bags, ropes, slings, hoses, etc. Pre-use inspection of all tools and equipment will ensure **NOBODY GETS HURT.**