

PANEL HANDLING

Illustrative training scenario - not an actual IPS incident

1 BACKGROUND

Large boards and panels can be awkward, unstable and difficult to grip. Plan delivery, storage and movement before the task.

2 SCENARIO

Training example: two workers begin carrying a large panel across an obstructed route. The load blocks their view and one worker starts to lose their grip.

3 IMMEDIATE RISK

Strains, trapped fingers and crushing injuries can result. Stop and lower the load safely; do not try to catch a falling panel.

4 CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS

The weight and centre of gravity were not checked. The route was cluttered and the team had no agreed movement plan.

5 KEY CONTROLS

Avoid hazardous manual handling where possible. Use suitable mechanical aids and bring materials close to their point of use. Assess the load, task, people and surroundings. Keep routes clear.

6 SUPERVISOR CHECK

Confirm the handling method, suitable equipment and clear landing area. Brief the team and agree communication. Stop if conditions change; do not rely on a fixed “safe” lifting weight.

STOP • CHECK • ACT

Plan the move before lifting.

Briefing aid: apply the project risk assessment, method statement and manufacturer instructions.

HSE guidance: [construction/healthrisks/physical-ill-health-risks/manual-handling.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/physical-ill-health-risks/manual-handling.htm)