



TOOLBOX TALKS

Focus Four Fall Hazards Toolbox Talk #1

Falls: General Protection and Awareness

Falls are the leading cause of injuries at work sites. Falls can occur from ladders, scaffolding, vehicles, heavy equipment, aerial lifts, openings, platforms, and roofs. Between October 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016, employee falls from roofs, ladders, structures, and openings accounted for 43% of construction fatalities nationally with 68 events occurring in this 4 month period.

[\[Here is an example or use one from your own experience\]](#)

Teterboro, NJ, October 14, 2016: An employee was laying down new metal decking sheets on the roof on a commercial construction project. The employee was fastening the sheets using a screw gun. The employee was using an articulating boom aerial lift as a means of access to the roof. Employee slipped and fell 45 feet to the ground while attempting to get into the lift. The employee was killed.

1. What could have been done to prevent the fatality?
2. What safety precautions should the individual have taken?
3. What precautions should the company have taken?

Did You Know: Falls to a lower level accounted for 81% of all fatal falls. Of those cases where the height of the fall was known, **more than two-fifths of fatal falls occurred at 15 feet or lower**. Fatal falls to a lower level accounted for nearly 40% of fatal work injuries in the private construction industry in 2015.

Source: Construction Industry Digest Research and Policy Center Quarterly report July—September 2016 VOL. 5 NO. 3



OSHA and our construction industry partners, such as the Mid-Atlantic Construction Safety Council, have initiated a **"Focus Four Hazards"** campaign throughout OSHA's Region III's jurisdiction. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness in the recognition, evaluation, and control of these hazards. Focus Four Hazards account for the vast majority of Injuries and fatalities in the construction industry.





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Falls: General Protection and Awareness (continued)

[What do we need to know]

GUARDRAILS, PERSONAL FALL ARREST SYSTEMS OR SAFETY NETS ARE REQUIRED ON WORK SURFACES WHEN WORKERS ARE EXPOSED TO **FALLS OVER 6 FEET.**

Fall Protection must be provided for all workers when exposed to falls of over 6 feet, with very limited exceptions.

- **Guardrails** must be 42" in height, a mid-rail is required as well as toeboards. When a guardrail system is utilized for Fall Protection it must, at a minimum, be comprised of a top rail, midrail, and toeboard.
- **Personal Fall Protection Systems** must, at a minimum, consist of a Body Harness, Lanyard or Retractable, and an Anchor Point that is capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds per employee.
- All employees must be provided with Fall Protection Training which includes the recognition of potential fall hazards at the workplace.

As per OSHA regulations, all workers must be properly trained on any Fall Protection System that they are expected to utilize.

All Fall Protection Systems must at least be compliant with OSHA's CFR 1926.502.



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