

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## Fall Toolbox Talk # 7

### 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 2011 and 2018, **the annual number of fall fatalities in construction increased by 30%**, exceeding the growth in employment and total fatalities in this industry. More than half (55%) of fall fatalities in construction occurred at a height of 20 feet or less. Falls from roofs have increased by 63% since 2011 and Hispanic worker deaths have increased by 90% since 2011.

#### Actual Incident:

West Chester, PA: An employee performing carpentry activities on a roof was fatally injured after falling to the ground below. The employee was installing wooden sheathing on a sloped roof (4:12). The perimeter of the roof was not protected nor was the employee utilizing any personal fall arrest equipment. The employee fell approximately 30 feet to his death. The employee was working at the site for less than two weeks.

- \* **What could have been done to prevent the fatality?**
- \* **What safety precautions should the individual have taken?**
- \* **What precautions should the company have taken?**

#### What you need to know:

Guardrails, Personal Fall Arrest Systems or Safety Net Systems are required on work surfaces when employees are exposed to falls of over 6 feet.

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

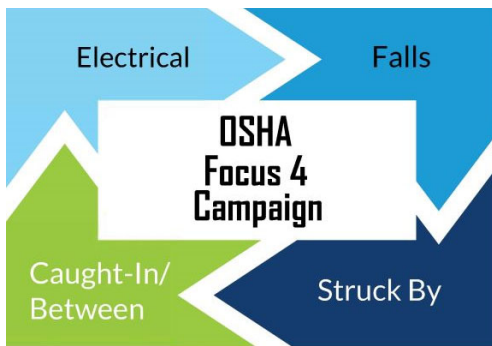
- \* Guardrails must be 42" in height, a mid-rail is required as well as toe-boards . When a guardrail system is utilized for Fall Protection it must, at a minimum, be comprised of a top rail, mid-rail, and toe-board.
- \* Personal Fall Protection Systems must, at a minimum, consist of a Body Harness, Lanyard, and an Anchor Point that is capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds per employee.

**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.**



*This information has been developed by OSHA and its partners with the intent to assist employers, workers, and others as they strive to improve workplace health and safety. This information must be understood as a tool for addressing workplace hazards, rather than an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards.*





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**ROOFING SAFETY: WALK THIS WAY!**

June 2022

Every year about **400 roofers are injured** and about **37 roofers die from falls**. Walking this way with the proper shoes can improve your balance and help prevent falls.

**WALKING UP A ROOF**  
Zigging and zagging when walking up a sloped surface reduces the incline and can help you control your balance.

**WALKING ACROSS A SLOPED ROOF**  
Walk with your feet wide apart and take shorter steps to improve your balance.

**Choose the PROPER shoes for walking on roofs:**

- Choose lighter boots with non-slip soles.
- Wear puncture resistant soles.
- Seek out specialty "roofer shoes" with nonslip soles, moderate stiffness, a tight fit, rear motion control, and front end flexibility.

**Choose the PROPER shoes for walking on flat, narrow planks:**

- Choose high-cut, above ankle, work shoes or safety boots—they provide the most balance of any shoe type.
- Avoid low-cut work shoes that are well padded—they will reduce your ability to control your balance.
- Avoid athletic shoes on planks.

**Walking the right way is no substitute for fall protection.**

**Join the Campaign to Stop Construction Falls!**  
[www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com)

**Logos:** OSHA, NIOSH, CPWR, NORA

**#StandDown4Safety**

October 2021

**SNAPSHOT OF FATAL FALLS IN CONSTRUCTION, 2019**

**1,102 CONSTRUCTION DEATHS**  
Most deaths in a year since 2011

**1 IN 3 DEATHS WERE FROM FATAL FALLS**  
#1 on OSHA's Fatal Four  
93 fatal falls related to ladders  
52 fatal falls related to scaffolding

**401 FATAL FALLS TO A LOWER LEVEL**  
25% increase from 2018  
Hispanics have a higher rate of falls

**146 FATAL FALL DEATHS FROM ROOFS**  
28% increase from 2018  
63% increase from 2011

**374 HISPANIC CONSTRUCTION DEATHS**  
27% increase from 2018  
90% increase since 2011

**1 IN 3 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ARE HISPANIC**  
Provide training in the language workers use and images that reflect their culture.

**2X RATE OF DEATH FOR CONSTRUCTION**  
workers age 65+ compared to workers age 55 or less

**PLAN**  
ahead to get the job done safely.

**PROVIDE**  
the right equipment.

**TRAIN**  
everyone to use the equipment safely.

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**#StandDown4Safety**

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