

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:

Philadelphia, PA, November 2017: An employee performing carpentry activities was fatally injured after falling down an unprotected elevator shaftway. The employee was clearing debris on the 5th floor of the structure when he backed into the open shaftway. The shaftway opening was not protected or guarded in any manner. The employee fell approximately 60 feet to his death. The employee was working at the site for less than three 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.

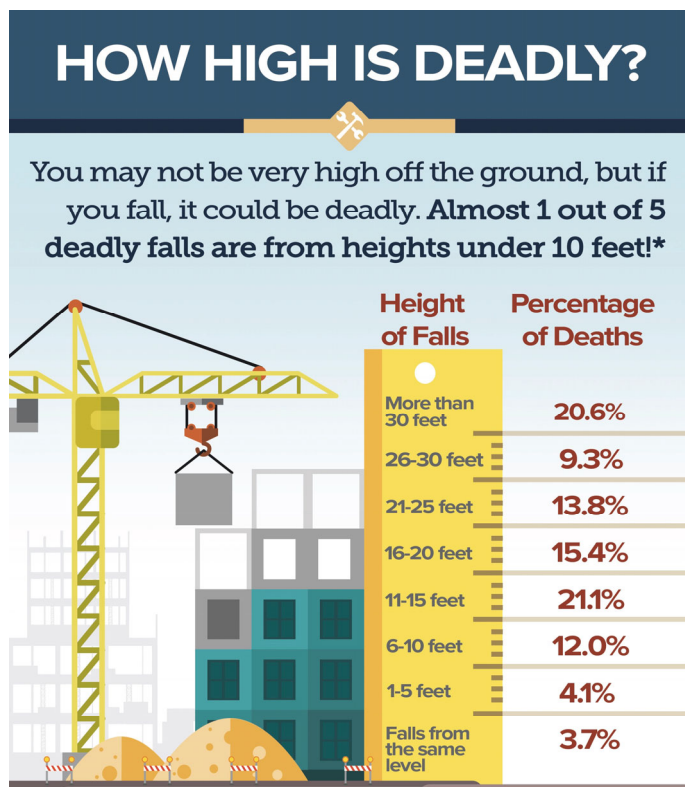




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October 2021

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.

Join the Campaign to Stop Construction Falls!
www.stopconstructionfalls.com

#StandDown4Safety

Source: Brown S, Harris W, Brooks PD, Dong XS. Data Bulletin: Fatal Injury Trends in the Construction Industry. The Center for Construction Training and Research (CPWR); February 2021. Available from: <https://www.cpw.org/wp-content/uploads/DataBulletin-February-2021.pdf>

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CPWR
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING

*Between 2015-2017, 1,005 construction workers died from falls, with 199 fatalities occurring at 10 ft or less. 139 deaths without height information were excluded. Source: CPWR. (2019). Quarterly Data Report Q2 2019: Trends of Fall Injuries and Prevention in the Construction Industry. <https://www.cpw.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/Quarterly-2019-2020.pdf>
Fatal injury data were generated by CPWR's Data Center with restricted access to the BLS CFOI micro data. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the BLS.

Source: <http://stopconstructionfalls.com/>

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