

## Fall Prevention

The purpose of safety on the jobsite is to prevent the illness, injury or death of the most valuable resource in any industry, the people. Falls, whether on the same level or to a level below, are a leading cause of death in the workplace and accounted for 39% of all construction deaths in 2017.

**Hazard Recognition:** Recognizing hazards is the first step in protecting yourself against them. Fall hazards exist because of a variety of common conditions and behaviors. Examples include:

- Floor holes
- Open-sided floors
- Roof edges and leading edges
- Skylights
- Ladders
- Scaffolding
- Aerial lifts
- Not respecting fall hazards
- Not paying attention
- Equipment or tool failure
- Slips
- Overreaching
- Complacency

**What's the Plan?** Not planning is planning to fail. Prior to starting work, you should:

- Evaluate the work site
- Think about how the job will be done
- Think about what tasks are involved
- Identify fall hazards
- Select suitable fall protection equipment

**The Right Stuff:** Using the right fall protection equipment and the right tools for the job, including the right kinds of ladders, scaffolds and safety gear, is another key factor to staying safe. Never take short cuts, improvise or compromise because of convenience in-leu-of taking the time to do it right. Employers are required to provide fall protection equipment and systems to protect you against falls.

**Training:** The keys to recognizing fall hazards, knowing what equipment to use and how to use it, maintain it, and inspect it are all elements of an effective training program. You would never go to war without the proper training, and the same should be true about the number one cause of death in construction.

### Tools to Reduce Falls:

- Train workers
- Inspect safety equipment prior to use
- Use grab line systems, guardrails, safety nets, or personal fall arrest systems
- Inspect all climbing and elevated work surfaces
- Clear surfaces of materials, tools, and debris
- Never struggle to reach work areas by overreaching, hanging, or leaning
- Never climb up, stand on, or walk across items or surfaces not intended for that purpose
- Scaffolding must be erected and regularly inspected by trained, qualified persons
- A secure step must be provided anywhere there is a break in elevation of 19 inches or more
- Develop an emergency fall response plan
- Review tips for scaffold and ladder safety

Additional Topics:

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Notes:

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Meeting Date:

Conducted By:

Attended By:

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