

Toolbox Talk # 11.02 – Fall Protection

Falls are the leading cause of construction worker fatalities. Each year between 150 and 200 workers die and more than 100,000 are injured as a result of falls at construction sites. Special trade contractors, such as roofers, carpenters, and structural steel erectors, accounted for half of the fatal falls. Knowing the rules will help protect you.

The rule identifies areas or activities where fall protection is needed. These include: (1) unprotected sides and edges, (2) hoist areas, (3) holes, (4) wall openings, (5) formwork and reinforcing steel, (6) ramps, runways, and other walkways, (7) excavations, (8) dangerous equipment, (9) overhand bricklaying and related work, (10) roofing work, (11) leading edge work, (12) precast concrete erection, (13) residential construction, and (14) other walking/working surfaces.

What is threshold height?

Threshold height is that height where your employer must provide fall protection for the areas or activities described above. For this fall protection rule, that height is 6 feet. At that height your employer must provide the equipment and training required to protect you from falling off, onto, or through working levels that are 6 feet or more above lower levels.

Selection of equipment

The three most common methods of providing fall protection are guardrails, safety nets, or personal fall arrest systems.

Training

Your employer must provide training, taught by a competent person, any time you could be exposed to fall hazards. The training must include: (1) recognizing and minimizing fall hazards, (2) procedures for erecting, maintaining, disassembling, and inspecting the fall protection equipment you will use, and (3) an understanding of the OSHA fall protection rules.

What the rule contains

The fall protection standard has three elements that are important to you. They are:

- situations at your worksite that require protection from falling.
- different types of fall protection equipment and systems your employer can use to provide you with protection.
- training requirements.
- Always use all fall protection systems and equipment your employer provides, it could save your life

Toolbox Talk # 11.02 – Fall Protection

Project: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Company: _____

Other safety issues covered or comments from crew members:

Attendees:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		