
**GUIDANCE DOCUMENT PREVENTING
INJURY IN CONSTRUCTION**

To help employers comply with the new fall protection directive OSHA issued a guidance document on [Fall Protection in Residential Construction](#). Falls are the leading cause of death for workers involved in residential construction. The document focuses primarily on new construction and shows how employers can prevent fall-related injuries and death by methods that include using bracket scaffolds, anchors, safety net systems and guardrails during activities such as weatherproofing a roof or installing roof sheathing, walls and subfloors. See the [news release](#) for more information.

OSHA HEAT STRESS CAMPAIGN

OSHA has launched a nationwide outreach campaign about the hazards of working outdoors in extreme heat and the steps that employers and workers can take to prevent heat illnesses this summer. The campaign's focus is outreach and guidance. In developing guidance products and materials, OSHA will specifically target hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations especially those who do not speak English as a first language or who may have limited reading skills. The materials and OSHA's updated website on heat illness prevention will be available in both English and Spanish.

OSHA is also working with the National Weather Service to publicize the use of the Heat Index and to make sure that extreme heat advisories and warnings carry messages about outdoor workers. OSHA is also updating its current heat illness prevention website (<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatstress/>) and it will highlight a key message about water, rest, and shade and direct users to website pages and tools specifically designed for both workers and for employers.

The agency expects both webpages to go live sometime in mid-May.

OSHA is also creating other new materials for workers such as a fact sheet and a poster for workers with limited reading skills that illustrate heat exhaustion, heat stroke, emergency steps, and prevention steps – again focused on water, rest and shade. Lastly, several public service announcements, including a message directly from the Secretary of Labor, are being developed again in both English and Spanish to assist in getting the word out. The fact sheets, posters and public service announcements are expected to be available in English and Spanish within the next few weeks.



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MONTHLY TOOLBOX TALK

How prepared are you? What steps can you take to prevent an accident from happening?

CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS THAT *ALMOST* HAPPENED...

Those of us in the safety profession spend a lot of time letting people know what causes accidents and how to avoid them. Sometimes this involves sharing stories of accidents that happened-or almost happened-to others. This Outline is about a couple of "near miss" events that could have been much more serious, or even involved a fatality. As you read about these cases, analyze what went wrong and decide what you should do to avoid a similar exposure.

A Rigging Mishap: This incident took place in a remote area of Alaska. An electrical sub contractor was hired by a general contractor to bore under roadways and stream beds, and install construction conduit. Part of the agreement required the general to position the boring machine where these operations were to take place. This required winching a truck and trailer combination up a steep incline on an oil company right of way. The general contractor's crew delivered the truck and trailer, positioned it at the bottom of the right of way, and supplied the bulldozer and all rigging for the job. The lead person on the subcontractor's boring crew stayed in the truck as it was being winched up the incline. This particular incline was located adjacent to a cliff.

As the rig was being winched up the hill, the sling between the winch line and the truck parted, and the truck and trailer began free wheeling backwards toward the cliff. The truck driver decided to jack knife the trailer and jump clear of the vehicle in order to avoid going over the edge. The trailer was damaged as a result, but no personal injuries occurred. It could have been a disaster.

So, why did this happen? The sling selected for this application was too small to withstand the weight of the truck and trailer combination. Knowing the weight of the load is the first step. Selection of rigging which can withstand that weight--plus a significant safety factor--is the next step. The third step is a thorough inspection of all rigging to assure it is in good working order. If these steps had been taken, the mishap could have been avoided.

An Overhead Danger: Another incident happened to this same subcontractor on a different conduit construction project. The conduit, which is spooled off the truck and into the vault, is guided by rollers which prevent the wire from being damaged as it is pulled in. The heavy rollers hang on the side of the manhole and present no danger of being dislodged--usually.

On this job, wire for a section of conduit had been pulled in and a worker in the bottom of the vault was preparing it for terminations in the pad mounted transformer. Then, somehow, the roller became dislodged and fell approximately eight feet, glancing off the worker's hard hat and shoulder. He sustained minor injuries to his head and shoulder, but if he had not been wearing a hard hat, the accident would almost certainly have been fatal.

The reason construction workers should wear hard hats at all times was made obvious by this incident. If you become accustomed to going without one, you'll often forget to put it on when it is needed. In the "near miss" case described, two things could have prevented this accident: (1) rollers could have been secured in place with rope, and (2) rollers could have been removed once the wire pulling operation was complete. This is hindsight. Avoid accidents with foresight!

Don't just talk about it, be about it! Be Safe.