

OSHA's National Safety **Stand-Down** to Prevent Falls in Construction is May 4-15, 2015. The purpose of the National Fall Prevention Stand-Down is to raise awareness of preventing fall hazards in construction. Fatalities caused by falls from elevation continue to be a leading cause of death for construction workers, accounting for 279 of the 806 construction fatalities recorded in 2012. Those deaths were preventable. Fall prevention safety standards were among the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards, during fiscal year 2014.

2015 Stand-Down Goals:

Last year's Stand-Down was a tremendous success, reaching more than 1 million workers. This year, OSHA's goal is for more than 20,000 Stand-Downs involving more than 3 million workers to take place from May 4-15, 2015. If OSHA meets this goal, they will have touched almost 4 out of 10 construction workers in the country.

Who Can Participate?

Anyone who wants to prevent falls in the workplace can participate in the Stand-Down. Last year, participants included commercial construction companies of all sizes, residential construction contractors, sub-contractors and independent contractors, highway construction companies, general industry employers, the U.S. Military, other government participants, unions, employer's trade associations, institutes, worker interest organizations, and safety equipment manufacturers.

Partners

OSHA is partnering with key groups to assist with this effort, including the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA), OSHA approved State Plans, State consultation programs, the Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR), the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), the National Safety Council (NSC), the National Construction Safety Executives (NCSE), the U.S. Air Force, and the OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Centers.

What is a Safety Stand-Down?

A Safety Stand-Down is a voluntary event for employers to talk directly to employees about safety. This Stand-Down focuses on fall hazards and reinforcing the importance of fall prevention and the uses of fall protection.

How to Conduct a Safety Stand-Down and Frequently Asked Questions:

Companies can conduct a Safety Stand-Down by taking a break to have a toolbox talk or another safety activity such as conducting safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing job specific hazards. Managers are encouraged to plan a stand-down that works best for their workplace anytime during May 4-15, 2015. Below are some resources to assist employers in participating in this event. OSHA also hosts an [Events](#) page with events that are free and open to the public to help employers and workers find events in your area.

Certificate of Participation

Employers will be able to provide feedback about their Stand-Down and download a Certificate of Participation signed by Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez following the Stand-Down.

Resources:

[Suggestions for a Successful "Stand-Down":
https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/suggestions.html](https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/suggestions.html)

[Highlights from the 2014 Stand-Down
\(www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/highlights_2014.html\)](http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/highlights_2014.html).



Monthly Toolbox Talk

Fall Prevention

Falls are the leading cause of fatality in the construction industry. Falls can be prevented and lives can be saved through three simple steps: **PLAN, PROVIDE & TRAIN**

PLAN ahead to get the job done safely

- Employers must plan projects to ensure that the job is done safely. Decide how the job will be done, what tasks will be involved, and what safety equipment may be needed.

PROVIDE the right equipment

- Workers who are six feet or more above lower levels are at risk for serious injury or death if they should fall. To protect these workers, employers must provide fall protection and the right equipment for the job, including the right kinds of ladders, scaffolds, and safety gear.
- Different ladders and scaffolds are appropriate for different jobs. Always provide workers with the kind they need to get the job done safely. For roof work, there are many ways to prevent falls. If workers use personal fall arrest systems (PFAS), provide a harness for each worker who needs to tie off to the anchor. Make sure the PFAS fits, and regularly inspect all fall protection equipment to ensure it's still in good condition and safe to use.

TRAIN everyone to use the equipment safely

- Falls can be prevented when workers understand proper set-up and safe use of equipment, so they need training on the specific equipment they will use to complete the job. Employers must train workers in hazard recognition and in the care and safe use of ladders, scaffolds, fall protection systems, and other equipment they will be using on the job.
- **Ladder Safety:** Employees must be trained to properly use a ladder- this includes safety measures like:
 - Maintain three points of contact
 - Place the ladder on level footing
 - Always face the ladder when climbing and working from it
 - Secure the ladder
 - Ensure the metal braces are locked on stepladders
 - Don't overreach
 - Don't walk the ladder
- **Scaffold Safety:** Employees must be trained to safely set up and use scaffolds- this includes safety measures like:
 - During setup: fully plank scaffolds, complete all guardrails, ensure stable footing and plumb and level
 - Ensure proper access to scaffolds
 - A competent person must inspect the scaffold before use
 - Don't climb over cross braces
 - Don't stand on guardrails
 - Don't use a ladder on a scaffold
- **Roof Safety:** Employees must be trained to avoid fall hazards on a roof and properly use fall protection equipment-this includes safety measures like:
 - Make sure your harness fits and is not defective when using PFAS
 - Always stay connected/tie off
 - Ensure that all anchor points are safe
 - Protect all holes, openings and skylights
 - Don't sit or walk on skylights or other openings

