



# FALL PREVENTION ALLIANCE TOOLBOX TALK ON OSHA FALL PROTECTION GENERAL GUIDELINES (SUBPART M PART A)

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

The leading cause for worker fatalities in construction work is due to falls. Every year nearly 200 workers die, and more than 100,000 are injured from falling. Many people in construction work “at heights” where there is often the need for fall protection and thorough training on how to use it.

**Federal OSHA Guidelines:** Sets the rule for the “Uniform Threshold Height” at 6 feet. Working above this height triggers the requirement that fall protection be provided and used. To prevent the risks of dangerous falls, the need to work at heights must be anticipated and work activities planned accordingly. Careful planning, preparation, assessment of the work-site for fall hazards, and the selection of appropriate protective systems must be provided and installed before any employees may begin work.

**Employers are required to:**

- Select systems and equipment that conditions require
- Properly construct and install appropriate safety system
- Carefully and thoroughly train workers in the proper selection, use, and maintenance of fall protection systems.

**Employees are required to:**

- Accept training and be diligent in hazard recognition
- Use safe work practices
- Use fall protection equipment properly
- Observe fall protection rules & regulations

**Primary operational areas or activities where fall protection is required by OSHA regulations:**

- |                               |                          |                            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Scaffolds                   | • Concrete formwork      | • Residential construction |
| • Hoist areas                 | • Steel erection         | • Overhand bricklaying     |
| • Roofing work                | • Wall openings          | • Excavations              |
| • Aerial lifts                | • Reinforcing steel work | • Holes                    |
| • Unprotected sides and edges | • Cranes and derricks    |                            |
| • Pre-cast concrete erection  | • Leading-edge work      |                            |

**Other hazards:** Fall protection is required for workers exposed to the hazard of falling into dangerous equipment or any other elevated ramp, runways, walkways, or working surfaces.

**Good Housekeeping Practices** are important elements of fall prevention. Remember that high work areas should be kept free from excess tools, materials, debris, clutter, or liquids that could create slippery surfaces. Falling objects are also dangerous.

**Conclusion:** Workers must be trained to recognize the hazards of the possible fall situations they are in and the procedures they must follow to eliminate the risks. All fall hazards must be reported. Employees are a valuable source for locating hazards. Involve all workers in the process; teach all employees how to do worksite risk assessments, recognize fall hazards, and the selection and proper use of protection gear. Ask for everyone’s input and participation; employees who are involved in the process are safer workers.

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Through the OSHA and Houston Fall Prevention Alliance, this Toolbox Talk was developed for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. July 2016.

The Houston Fall Prevention Alliance was formed by the below organizations to provide their members, and others, with information, guidance and access to training resources that will help them protect the health and safety of workers, particularly by reducing and preventing exposure to fall hazards in the construction industries and addressing fall related issues and understand the rights of workers and the responsibilities of employers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act). In developing this alliance, these organizations recognize that OSHA’s State Plan and On-site Consultation Project partners are an integral part of the OSHA national effort.





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