



## FALL PREVENTION ALLIANCE TOOLBOX TALK ON

# PERIMETER AND LEADING EDGE BARRICADE SAFETY

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

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

A barricade is a portable or fixed device, having from one to three rails with appropriate markings, and is used to control traffic by closing, restricting, or delineating all or a portion of the right-of-way. Barricades are physical obstructions such as walls, drums, guardrails, screens, tapes, or cones intended to warn and limit access, to a hazardous area. Signs, signals or tags must be affixed to the barricades. Flag safety is used when warning signs cannot effectively control moving traffic. Follow these safety guidelines.

**Perimeter barricading set up on the outer boundary of work site:** A major concern for pedestrians is urban and suburban building construction encroaching onto the contiguous sidewalks, which forces pedestrians off the curb into direct conflict with moving vehicles.

- **Temporary traffic barricades are required to be** placed along the work space depending on factors such as, lateral clearance of workers from adjacent traffic, speed of traffic, duration and type of operations, time of day, and volume of traffic. Barricades must not intrude into the usable width of a sidewalk, or temporary pathway. Pedestrians should be rerouted when necessary.
- **Barricades must be** crash worthy. Sandbags can be placed on the lower parts of the frame to provide ballast. Do not use rocks or crushed concrete to provide ballast. Sandbags should be placed where the barricade is not easily blown over, or displaced.
- **Access of authorized equipment** barricades should be assigned to a worker who will provide proper opening and closure, after entry and departure. At the end of each workday, all barricades will be placed in there properly designated place.
- **Stripes on barricade rails must be** alternating orange and white retro reflective stripes sloping downward at an angle of 45 degrees in the direction road users are to pass. Rail lengths less than 36 inches, need 4 inch wide stripes. All others are 6 inches.
- **Drums used as barricades are required** to be constructed of lightweight, deformable materials. Drums should not be used for pedestrian channelization, or as pedestrian barriers in TTC zones, on or along sidewalks, unless they are continuous between individual devices and detectable to users of long canes. Do not weight with sand, water, or any material that would make them hazardous to road users or workers when struck. Retro reflective stripes should be visible on all sides of the drums.

**Signs are the warnings of hazard.** Signs are affixed, or placed, at temporary or permanent locations, where hazards exist. Signs and symbols must be visible at all times when work is being performed. They are to be removed, or covered when hazards no longer exist.

WARNING signs must be placed according to the Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones.

- **Danger:** Immediate hazard exists. **Caution:** Warn against potential hazards, or to caution against unsafe practices.

**Signals are moving signs,** provided by workers, such as flagmen, or by devices, such as flashing lights to warn of possible or existing hazards. Flagmen are required to be used at locations on a construction site, as soon as barricades and warning signs cannot effectively control moving traffic. Flagmen must wear orange, or strong yellow-green warning garments, such as vests, jackets, shirts or rainwear.

**Leading Edge barricades consist of** guardrails which must be installed at the open sides of all work surfaces that are 7.5 feet or higher, or workers must be protected by other fall protection or by a valid fall protection plan. Guardrailing specifications are as follow:

- Railing must be made from select lumber (or equivalent material) and must consist of: A wooden top rail that is 42 inches to 45 inches high and that measures 2 inches x 4 inches or larger. A midrail that is placed halfway between the top rail and the floor and that measures at least 1 inch x 6 inches. A supporting post that measures at least 2 inches x 4 inches, and is placed every 8 feet.
- All railings should be capable of withstanding a load of 200 pounds, or more, whenever specified by worksite regulations.

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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- Wall openings must be guarded if there is a drop of more than 4 feet, and the bottom of the opening is less than 3 feet above the working surface. Demolition wall openings must be guardrailed, except on the floor being demolished, and on the ground floor.
- Skeleton steel building: A single 3/8-inch wire rope, in lieu of standard railing, may be used to guard openings, and exposed edges of temporary floors or planking in skeleton steel buildings. The 3/8-inch wire rope must have a breaking strength of 13,500 lbs. (minimum), and be placed at 42 inches to 45 inches above the finished floor.

**Conclusion:** Each year several serious and fatal accidents are caused by inadequately trained employees, including employees who are newly hired, employees with newly assigned duties, and employees who are using tools and equipment with which they are unfamiliar. Barricades are physical obstructions intended to warn, and limit access to hazardous areas. Follow these guidelines for safety.

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