

Construction is among the most dangerous industries and in recent years, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that there are **more than 800 fatal on-the-job injuries to construction workers annually** – more than any other single industry. Fall hazards can be found in a variety of activities:

- Working from ladders
- Work on roof tops, near skylights, or floor holes
- Near excavations or pier hole
- On scaffolding, scissor, or boom lifts
- Using makeshift platforms or scaffold-like surfaces including buckets
- Inside of attics or overhead crawlspaces
- During road construction on bridges and overpasses

OSHA Standard 1926.501(b)(1) states that *Each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above a lower level shall be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.*

- Workers must recognize possible fall hazards especially when working at heights above 6' from a lower level. In general construction activities fall protection is required when working at heights above 6' from a lower level.
- If unprotected sides and edges exist a guardrail may be an option to prevent fall hazards.
- Workers should never be exposed to a fall hazard without proper fall protection in place!
- Fall hazards at ground level must be protected.
- Barricades, temporary barriers, and warning lines may help alert workers to possible hazards.
- Danger, warning, and caution signs must be used properly to warn workers of the potential fall hazards present.
- When working on scaffolds employees must have fall protection, such as guardrails, installed when they are more than 10' above a lower level.

OSHA Standard 1926.451(g)(1) states that *Each employee on a scaffold more than 10 feet (3.1 m) above a lower level shall be protected from falling to that lower level.*