



Ironworkers...*On the Safe Side*

Safety and Health Bulletin Dedicated to Servicing Our District Councils, Local Unions and IMPACT Contractors Throughout North America

For Immediate Release
Washington, D.C.
September 14, 2020

Contact: Safety Department
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“National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in the Workplace”

“Falls” is one of the “**Deadly Dozen Hazards**” that our members face in the workplace and is part of the International Association’s “**2020 ZERO Incident**” campaign commissioned by General President, Eric Dean. We request your support for the “National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction” initiative by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Each year the OSHA launches a voluntary campaign to encourage employers and organizations to focus on "Fall Hazards" and reinforcing the importance of "Fall Prevention". We regret that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic our organization unable to host a “National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction” event at designated training facilities. More details and information pertaining to the OSHA Stand-Down initiative can be viewed at www.osha.gov.

Stand-Down: Fall Protection Training Structures and Programs Utilized at Training Facilities

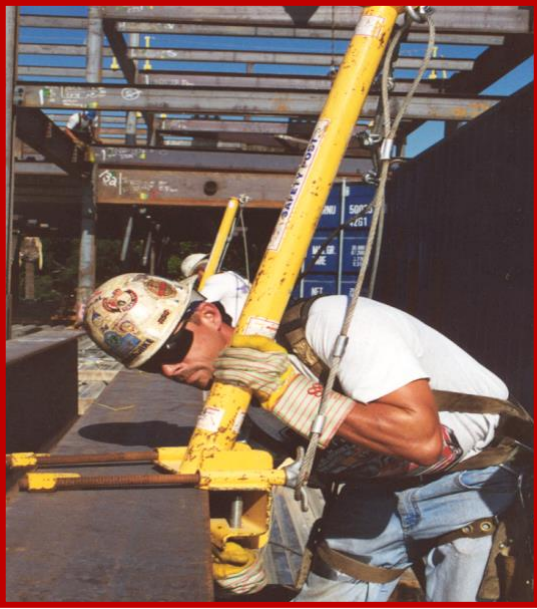


As part of our “Zero Incident Campaign”, our organization has allocated resources through the Safety and Health Department and National Training Fund (NTF) to provide information, training programs and regulatory reform to prevent fall hazards and incidents. Many of the NTF and training facilities throughout North America have been equipped with ‘state-of-the-art’ fall protection training structures for apprentices and journeymen upgrading. Lee Worley, Executive Director of the NTF provides engineered drawing and details to JATC’s to fabricate the 2-story fall protection training structures.

In support of the National Stand-Down effort to prevent falls, we encourage all members and contractors to take advantage of fall protection training courses and the use of these structures. This fall protection training structure allows the use of every type of fall arrest equipment of the market. Special emphasis on the correct installation and use of the various types of fall arrest equipment are utilized during the erection of these 2-story structures.

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Stand-Down: Know the Difference Between 100% Tie-Off vs. 100% Fall Protection



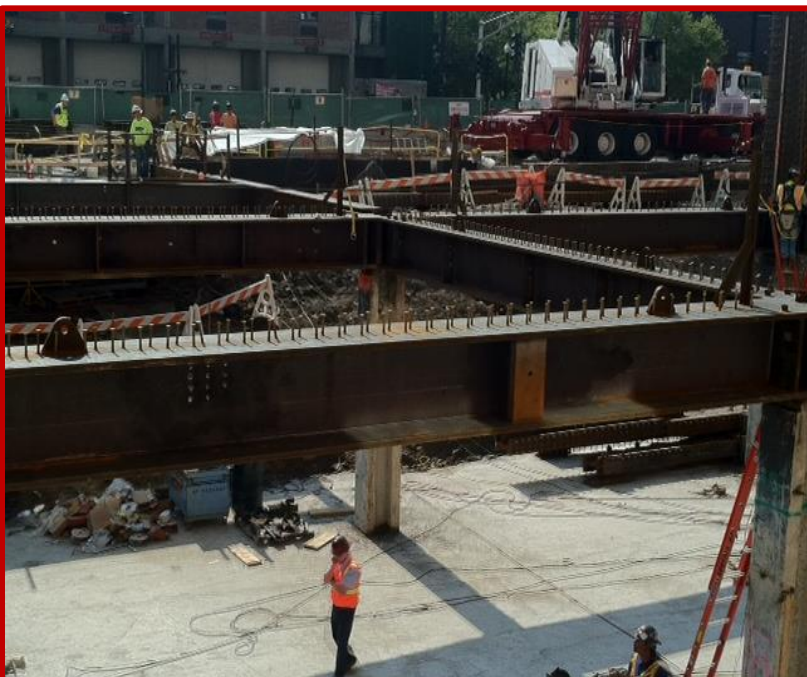
When fall related incidents are closely examined, there can be many contributing factors that resulted in the fall from an elevated surface. It is important for all members and contractors to recognize some of the common hazards and pitfalls pertaining to the installation and use of fall arrest systems in the workplace.

There is a significant difference in the commonly used terms of “100% tie-off” and “100% fall protection.” Not knowing the difference in these terms has contributed to a “false sense of security” that unfortunately has resulted in many fatalities and disabling injuries in the workplace. The term 100% fall protection requires recognition of suitable anchorage points, free-fall/total fall distances and swing-fall hazards to avoid striking any object during a fall and limiting fall arrest forces exerted on the body. Conversely, the term 100% tie-off merely implies that employees must be tied-off to comply with project fall protection policies.

Stand-Down: Recognize and Avoid Common Fall Hazards for in the Workplace

- Excessive Free-Fall Distance
- Inadequate Anchorage Points
- Lack of Personal Fall Arrest Systems
- Improper Use of Fall Arrest Equipment
- Unguarded Mechanical Shaft Access
- Unprotected floor Openings
- Unprotected Building Perimeter
- Impalement on Structure/Equipment
- Misuse of Retractable Lanyard
- Use of Defective or Altered Equipment

Stand-Down: Stop the Trip and Stop the Fall



Tripping hazards are one of the primary causation factors in many falls and serious incidents. The first line of defense in preventing falls is preventing the tripping hazards. The International Association and other organizations recognized this incident trend and were responsible for drafting the following OSHA Subpart R Tripping Hazards Standard.

Tripping Hazards - 1926.754(c)(1)

“Shear connectors, reinforcing bars, deformed anchors or threaded studs shall not be attached to the top flanges of beams, joists or beam attachments so that they project vertically from or horizontally across the top flange of the member until after the metal decking, or other walking/working surface, has been installed.”

(OSHA violation: double row of shear-studs creating trip & fall hazard.)

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Stand-Down: Maintain Tightly Decked, Planked or Netted Floors Directly Below the Steel Erection Process to Prevent Fall Distance



During the steel erection process, a tightly planked, decked or netted floors must be maintained within 30 feet or 2 floors, whichever is less, directly beneath steel erection activities. Despite OSHA's misguided interpretation letter dated May 21, 2012, the use of fall protection is NOT a substitute for the safeguards of maintaining a decked or planked floor. This serves to limit excessive free-fall distances for many floors, protects workers below from falling objects, and provides a work platform for fall rescue situations.

Structural Steel Assembly - 1926.754(b)(3)

“A fully planked or decked floor or nets shall be maintained within 2 stories or 30 feet, whichever is less, directly under any erection being performed.”

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

“National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction”

<https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/>

Visit the OSHA website at <https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/> to obtain more information on the 2020 “National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction”.

Overview

Fatalities caused by falls from elevation continue to be a leading cause of death for construction employees, accounting for 320 of the 1,008 construction fatalities recorded in 2018 (BLS data). **Those deaths were preventable.** The National Safety Stand-Down raises fall hazard awareness across the country in an effort to stop fall fatalities and injuries.

What is a Safety Stand-Down?

A Safety Stand-Down is a voluntary event for employers to talk directly to employees about safety. Any workplace can hold a stand-down by taking a break to focus on "Fall Hazards" and reinforcing the importance of "Fall Prevention". Employers of companies not exposed to fall hazards, can also use this opportunity to have a conversation with employees about the other job hazards they face, protective methods, and the company's safety policies and goals. It can also be an opportunity for employees to talk to management about fall and other job hazards they see.

Who Can Participate?

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

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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 Professionals (ASSP), the National Safety Council, the National Construction Safety Executives (NCSE), the U.S. Air Force, and the OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Centers.

How to Conduct a Safety Stand-Down and FAQ's

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. See [Suggestions to Prepare for a Successful "Stand-Down"](#) and [Highlights from Past Stand-Downs](#). OSHA also hosts an Events page with events that are free and open to the public to help employers and employees find events in your area.

If you plan to host a free event that is open to the public, see OSHA's [Events page](#) to submit the event details and to contact your [Regional Stand-Down Coordinator](#).

Certificate of Participation

Employers will be able to provide feedback about their Stand-Down and download a Certificate of Participation following the Stand-Down. The certificate pages will be active on September 14, 2020, for employers to enter their information and print their certificate.

Share Your Story With OSHA

If you want to share information with OSHA on your Safety Stand-Down, Fall Prevention Programs or suggestions on how the agency can improve future initiatives like this, please send your email to oshastanddown@dol.gov. Also share your Stand-Down story on social media, with the hashtag: *#StandDown4Safety*.

Eliminate One of the Deadly Dozen Hazards

We want to make every effort to protect our members from falls - one of the *“Deadly Dozen Hazards”* that our members face in the workplace, and part of the International Association’s *“2020 ZERO Incident”* campaign. The Safety and Health Department will continue to work with District Councils, Local Unions, contractors and IMPACT Regions throughout North America to provide assistance to increase safety performance in the shop and field.

Please contact the Safety and Health Department at (833) 355-SAFE (7233), Jeff Norris, Canadian Safety Coordinator at (780) 968-3326, or Wayne Creasap, District Representative of Safety at (703) 887-0455 if you have any questions pertaining to fall hazards in workplace.

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