

TOOL BOX TALKS

Death by Fall

Aside from vehicle collisions, jobsite falls are the number one way to die. Fall fatality rates are on the rise. Roofing contractors and building finishers are the primary groups at risk. In 2005, 767 fatal jobsite falls and 809 fatal falls occurred in 2006. Falls from rooftops accounted for 184 deaths in 2006. Fall protection is the cure for these fatalities. Guardrails, fall arrest systems, boom truck, scissor lift and boom lift safety are all needed. Discuss the safety tips below.

WORKSAFE TIPS

ALL FALLS ARE PREVENTABLE!

- Nobody comes to work planning to fall.
 - We're not as sure-footed as we think we are.
 - We can't just reach out and catch ourselves if we fall.
 - Nobody on the jobsite is mentally prepared to handle watching their coworker die after a fall.
 - No amount of first aid training can fully prepare you to care for a worker that has suffered trauma to multiple parts of the body including the head.
 - Start work on each new jobsite SAFELY!
 - Jobsite falls can be prevented through fall protection practices like guardrails and personal fall arrest systems.
 - Good quality guardrails must be set up on ALL scaffolds including sheetrocking scaffolds and pump jacks.
 - Wear a harness and lifeline when on ladder jacks at any height. (OSHA requires a lifeline to be used at 10 feet)
 - Fully plank scaffolds and set it up on a stable and level base.
 - Wear a harness and short lanyard when in scissor lifts, boom lifts or bucket trucks. Close gate and stay on the floor.
 - Remember that scissor lifts can fall over and boom lifts and bucket trucks can whip, throwing out the operator.
 - Never stand on scissor lift or boom lift guardrail.
 - Cover skylights because they're considered holes.
 - When using a personal fall arrest system, work directly below the anchorage to reduce the swing in a fall.
 - Fall distance: When you fall, the lanyard and lifeline will stretch out.
- Anchorages, lanyards and harnesses must be inspected before each use and removed from service if worn or damaged.
 - Guardrails must be set up whenever anyone could fall off a platform, out a window or door opening, or through openings like stairwells, skylights or HVAC openings. Guardrails must be strong and support a 200 pound load.

Lifting workers on the forks or in buckets can lead to a fatal fall!



Skylights are holes. Cover them!



These workers are not protected from a leading edge fall.



Scaffolds need guardrails.

Workers can easily fall!