



DID YOU *Know?*

Every Step Matters Preventing Falls on the Jobsite

Every day on jobsites all across the country, construction workers climb ladders, walk scaffolds, and work from rooftops to bring projects to life. But one misstep can change everything. Falls from elevation remain the leading cause of death in construction, accounting for **nearly 39%** of industry fatalities in 2023.

Between 2011 and 2021, **more than 3,500** workers lost their lives to falls — most while performing routine tasks like installing roofing, framing, or working from lifts and platforms.

OSHA Requirements

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) classifies falls as one of its **“Focus Four”** construction hazards to look out for — along with struck-by, electrocution and caught-in/between

incidents—because of their frequency and severity. Fall protection violations continue to lead OSHA’s list of most frequently cited standards each year.

Key standards include:

29 CFR 1926.501: Employers must provide fall protection when working six feet or more above a lower level.

29 CFR 1926.502: Guardrails, safety nets, and personal fall-arrest systems must meet strict performance criteria.

29 CFR 1926.503: Employers must train workers to recognize fall hazards and use protection systems correctly.

Compliance is just the beginning. True safety means embedding these principles into daily routines —before a worker ever sets foot off the ground.

From Standards to Action

Understanding the OSHA standards is only the first step—real safety depends on how those rules are applied every day. More recent data reports that falls from elevation **accounted for 81%** of all fatal slips, trips, and falls across U.S. industries in 2022. These incidents often occur during short-duration tasks such as ladder use or quick inspections—moments when fall protection is easily overlooked.

Effective prevention starts well before work begins. Employers should evaluate each jobsite, identify potential hazards, and ensure workers have the right gear and training for the task. Every job involving heights—no matter how brief—**requires a safety plan** tailored to the work being performed. When safety planning becomes as routine as scheduling or equipment checks, the result is a workforce that not only follows regulations but lives them.

“As you see with the data, falls always have the potential to lead to severe outcomes, no matter the fall distance,” said Sean Yakicic, Amerisure Risk Management Expertise Specialist.

“By consistently driving awareness around the exposures and the methods used to control, employees are empowered to keep fall-prevention work practices top of mind.”

Why it Matters

Falls don't just impact statistics—they impact lives. Behind every number is a person, a family, and a team forever changed by a preventable incident. The true measure of safety isn't written in regulations—it's reflected in every worker who finishes the day unharmed. When organizations move beyond compliance to proactive prevention, they not only save lives but also strengthen trust, morale, and productivity across every construction jobsite.

Key Takeaways

Our Team
ENSURES
Safety



TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT SAVE LIVES

Consistent training and daily equipment inspections ensure workers understand how to use fall protection correctly and confidently, reducing the chance of preventable injuries.



PLANNING PREVENTS INCIDENTS

Identifying fall hazards before work begins—and ensuring protective systems are in place—turns routine tasks into safer operations and helps every worker return home safely.



COMMUNICATION CREATES CULTURE

Frequent conversations about safety help keep fall prevention at the forefront and build a work environment rooted in trust and care.

For detailed strategies on implementing effective risk management practices in your organization or to learn more about safety on the jobsite, visit our [Risk Management page](#) or contact an [Agent](#).