

SAFE USE OF HATCHES

Avoid falls when using or working near hatches

Contractors should take the following steps before work begins:

- ▶ If there is no fixed ladder and the use of a portable extension ladder is required; be sure to secure the ladder from movement.
- ▶ Include handholds (grab bars) to use when transitioning from the ladder or stairway to the roof.
- ▶ Install standard guardrails, as defined by OSHA, around the open sides of roof hatches. Guardrails protect nearby workers from tripping on or falling into an open hatch.
- ▶ Install a swing gate that opens **away** from the ladder/hatch opening.



For more information on fall prevention and protection, visit stopconstructionfalls.com

On the job, workers should:

- ▶ Check to make sure the way is clear of debris or materials and communicate with workers above or below before use.
- ▶ Hold onto grab bars when climbing into or out of the hatch.
- ▶ Use appropriate fall protection, including a personal fall arrest system (PFAS) when working at heights of 6 ft or more above a lower level.
- ▶ Hatch lids should be closed when not in use and *never* be used to store any materials or as a seat.

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Three simple steps to preventing falls.

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