

Prevent Falls: Guardrails

Falls are a leading cause of construction injuries and fatalities. Workers can fall from ladders, scaffolds, vehicles, heavy equipment, aerial lifts, platforms, and roofs, and through holes or openings in floors or roofs. Guardrails can prevent a fall.

Bill's Story

Bill was repairing an air conditioning unit on the roof of a three-story building. He was about a foot from an unguarded edge. When he stood up, he lost his balance. Bill fell 23 feet to the cement floor below and died.

- ✘ What caused this incident?
- ✘ How could this have been prevented?
- ✘ Have you ever fallen because of a missing guardrail, or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

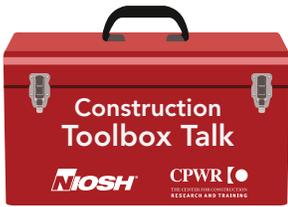
- Your employer must provide **every** employee with training on how to recognize a fall hazard and on fall protection.
- Guardrails, safety nets, and/or personal fall-arrest systems **must be** in place if there is a risk for falls.
- Guardrails are **required** on work surfaces where workers are at risk of falls greater than 6 feet.
- Guardrails **must be** 42 inches high (+/- 3") and have a mid-rail.
- Body harnesses with lanyards and secure attachment points provided by employers **must be** used if guardrails cannot be provided.

How can we stay safe today?

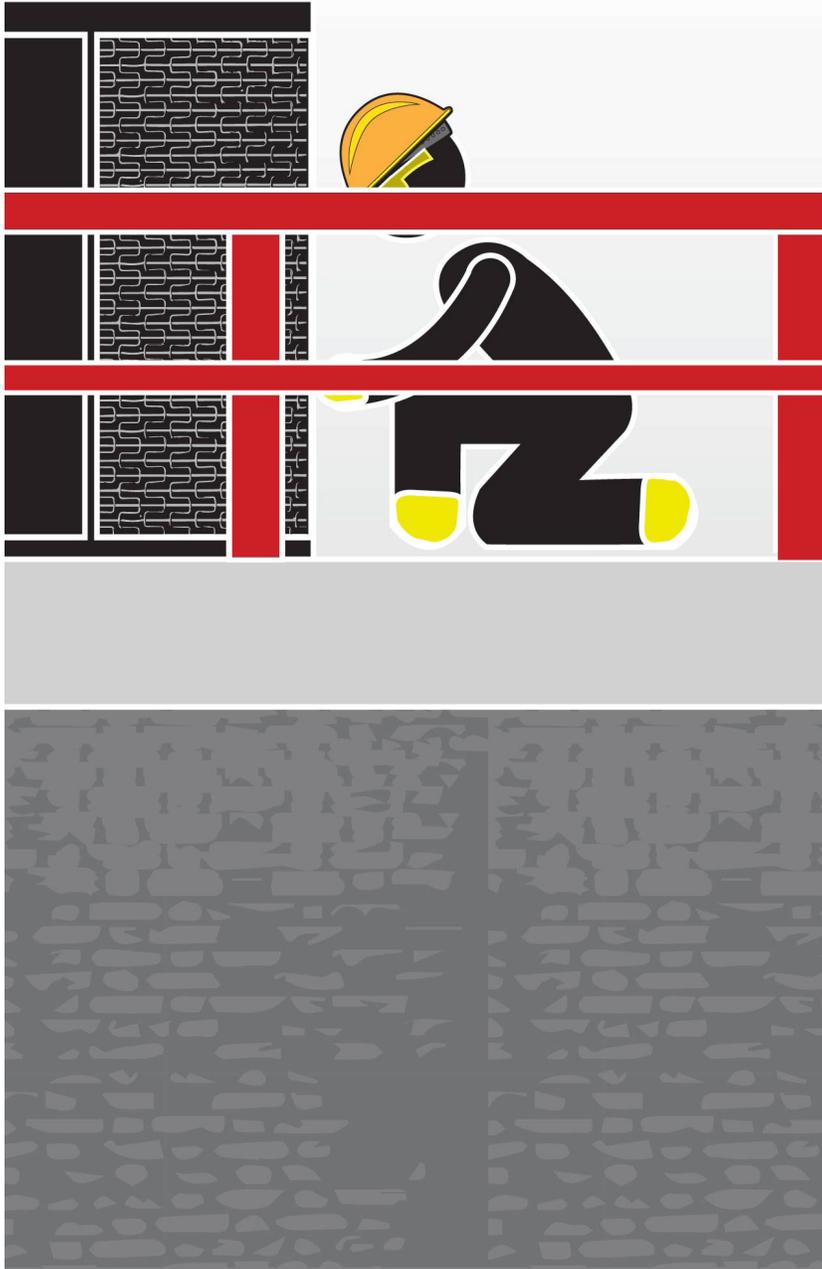
What will we do at the worksite to prevent fall injuries?

OSHA Standards: 1926.501 and 1926.503





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42 inches with
mid-rail (+/- 3")

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GET INFORMATION

CDC/NIOSH INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-800-232-6348 | www.cdc.gov/info | www.cdc.gov/niosh
CPWR: Contact 301-578-8500 | cpwr-r2p@cpwr.com | www.cpwr.com/toolbox-talks
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