



# Walking/Working Surfaces

*Your job has many walking/working surfaces.*

***A walking/working surface is any surface – horizontal or vertical – where you walk or work to perform your job duties such as floors, roofs, ramps, bridges, runways, formwork, and concrete reinforcing steel. Ladders, vehicles, and trailers must also meet safety standards, but do not qualify as walking/working surfaces.***

## Felix's Story

Felix, a roofer, was working on a residential construction project with a tight timeline. In a rush one evening, Felix's co-workers left debris on the roof. As Felix attached shingles the next morning, he slipped on the debris, causing him to fall. Fortunately, Felix was wearing a properly anchored personal fall arrest system (PFAS) so his fall was stopped and he did not suffer any serious injuries.

- ▶ **If you notice a potential safety issue with a walking/working surface, whom should you tell?**
- ▶ **Do you know anyone who has fallen from a walking/working surface?**

## Remember This

- ▶ Surfaces you walk and work on shall be safe.
- ▶ Hazards on walking/working surfaces shall be corrected before you use them. Walking/working surfaces shall:
  - Be inspected for slip- and trip-causing factors such as protruding objects, loose boards, corrosion, leaks, spills, snow, ice, etc.
  - Have covers able to support at least twice the maximum weight of employees, equipment, or materials over all holes. Covers shall be color-coded or labeled "HOLE" or "COVER" in the appropriate language(s) for your site.
  - Have the strength and structural integrity to support you, your co-workers, and materials safely.
  - Be clean, orderly, and sanitary.
- ▶ If you are on a walking/working surface that is six feet or more above a lower level, you shall be protected from falls by a guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system.
- ▶ Tell your supervisor, foreman, or competent person immediately if any of the safety standards for a walking/working surface are not met.

## How can we stay safe today?

What walking/working surfaces do we use on this job site?

What will we do today to make sure our job site's walking/working surfaces are safe?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OSHA REGULATION: 1926.500, 1926.501, & 1926.502



# Walking/Working Surfaces



- ▶ If you must walk or work on a surface at your job, the surface shall be safe.
- ▶ Walking/working surfaces shall be kept clean, orderly, sanitary, and free of hazards.
- ▶ Walking/working surfaces shall be able to support you, your co-workers, and materials safely.