



Toolbox Talks

Falls



Workers must be able to recognize the common trip and fall hazards that can be found during construction and all workers have the right to be protected from fall hazards.

- Maintain general site housekeeping and ensure materials, equipment, tools, and extension cords do not create trip and fall hazards.
- Do not store any items that can become trip hazards in walkways, aisles, or hallways.
- For trip and fall hazards that can't be immediately resolved, ensure there are adequate barricades and warning signs in place.

Floor holes are one of the most common trip and fall hazards found in construction areas.

- The holes must be guarded or protected by guardrails, covers, and other conventional fall protection methods.
- When floor holes must remain at the site for any period of time, they can be covered with durable material and marked with "cover" or "hole" to warn workers of the hazard.

OSHA Standard 1926.501(b)(4)(ii) Each employee on a walking/working surface shall be protected from tripping in or stepping into or through holes (including skylights) by covers.

Workers must recognize possible fall hazards when working at heights above 6 feet from a lower level.

- Never stand on the mid or top rail of the guardrail system on an elevated platform. Keep both feet firmly planted on the basket floor.
- Never lean out over the top rail of the elevated platform.
- Before operating any aerial lift, conduct a pre-use inspection of the work area looking for any issues that could cause a tip-over hazard like unstable or uneven ground, inclines, floor holes or clutter.
- Stairways with four or more risers must be equipped with at least one handrail.
- Always use handrails if equipped and maintain three points of contact to prevent falls.
- Ensure ladders or portable working platforms are on sturdy ground.
- Never carry items in your hands while ascending or descending a ladder.
- Add temporary stair rails to stairways that are still under construction to ensure construction workers, and other visitors to the construction site, can climb the stairs safely, if needed.

