



10 Ways to Keep Your Fall Prevention Program Alive All Year Long

The Stand-Down may be one week a year, but saving lives is a year-round priority!

Why should you keep a focus on falls?

- ❖ Jobsites change and crews come and go – you may have new workers who missed the Stand-Down and new projects or phases of work with different fall hazards or considerations.
- ❖ Not all workers come to the job with the same level of experience and training. Conducting regular task-specific safety training can help save lives.
- ❖ It's human nature to become complacent or overconfident about safety. Scheduling activities quarterly or even monthly can re-energize everyone and bring the focus back to preventing falls.
- ❖ Fostering a positive [jobsite safety culture/climate](#) leads to a safer workplace and fewer job-related injuries. Implementing an ongoing fall prevention program is one way to show management commitment, improve supervisory leadership, involve workers in safety, and conduct training to build and reinforce a good safety climate.

If your jobsite does experience a fall – *even if nobody is injured* – workers may feel upset and worried about their safety. Taking some time to discuss what happened can help with morale and may illustrate ways to improve how you plan, provide and train to prevent falls.

At minimum, you should:

- ✓ **Determine the cause of the fall,**
- ✓ **Inspect and remove from use faulty personal fall arrest systems or equipment, such as ladders or scaffolds, that may have contributed to the fall,**
- ✓ **[Develop a fall prevention plan](#) or reevaluate your existing fall prevention plan,**
- ✓ **Have an open conversation with workers about their concerns,**
- ✓ **Conduct a refresher training on fall prevention, and**
- ✓ **Communicate the importance of fall protection throughout the organization.**

CPWR, OSHA and NIOSH have a variety of resources that you can use when deciding what activities will work for your jobsite's ongoing fall prevention program. Be imaginative and select activities that fit your company's culture and the kind of construction work you do. The following list of ideas may help you get started:

- 1. Do another stand-down.** If you have already done a fall-related stand-down, do another and just change up the activities or specific topics you focus on. If your first stand-down focused on falls from ladders, focus the next one on falls from roofs, scaffolds, aerial lifts, moving equipment, or even slips and trips. If you conducted a training the first time, switch it up and do a fall protection demonstration or equipment inspection. Consider conducting quarterly or monthly stand-downs. If you didn't participate in the National Safety Stand-Down, learn more [here](#).
- 2. Focus on rescue.** Is there a plan for rescue if someone does fall? Make sure everyone knows what it is and how to implement it. Don't depend solely on 911/Emergency Services: they may not be able to make it in time or have the training to conduct the type of rescue required. A CPWR survey found that self-rescue was one of the most common rescue methods used. Train workers on how to self-rescue safely based on the job, location of work, and equipment being used.
- 3. Create or revise your written fall prevention plan.** Put together a taskforce (manager, safety person, lead worker), and ask them to develop a fall protection plan for a specific construction project. You can use [this generic template](#)

to create a fall protection and rescue plan. For small employers or those just beginning to plan for falls, [click here for a shorter, simpler plan](#) (both templates [also available in Spanish](#)).

- 4. Pause work to model how to inspect equipment.** Workers should inspect their equipment before use every day. Speak to supervisors about the need to provide adequate time for daily inspections. Model how to self-inspect fall protection and other equipment. You may want to ask a fall protection equipment manufacturer, vendor, or safety professional to help – many are very enthusiastic about opportunities such as this.
- 5. Partner with community events.** Raise the community and workers' family members' awareness about the importance of fall protection by incorporating fall safety awareness into existing sporting events, church or other faith-based organization events, neighborhood health fairs, or other local events.
- 6. Share a testimonial** from a worker injured or disabled due to a fall, or a family member who lost a loved one, with workers and supervisors. You could invite a previously injured worker or family member to speak in-person or use video clips or written testimonials. To help with this, www.stopconstructionfalls.com has videos available in [Training & Resources](#) as well as [State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation reports](#) on fatal falls and the new [Construction Fatality Map Dashboard](#).
- 7. Publish fall protection articles** in company newsletters or share stories via group emails and social media. Point to a recent construction fall tragedy in the news and urge everyone in the organization to learn from it. Try to use a compelling message like “We all want to make sure we go home to our loved ones at night.”
- 8. Provide fall-prevention training** to supervisors and/or workers. Remind supervisors and lead workers that others will model behavior after them – if they work safely and use fall protection properly, their coworkers are more likely to do so as well. [Incorporate fall-related toolbox talks](#) (available in English and Spanish) into pre-shift or other existing jobsite meetings. Consider asking workers to help deliver the toolbox talk to improve their engagement in fall safety and provide credible models for other workers. If possible, have a trainer, competent person, or manufacturer conduct more in-depth training. You may also want to consider a full OSHA 10 or 30-hour course for those who have not previously attended.

CPWR's [Foundations for Safety Leadership](#) training module is an OSHA 30 elective that improves leadership skills of workers, foremen and other supervisory personnel. The full module is 2.5 hours, but it is broken into 8 sections that can be used alone to improve safety skills, workers' understanding of when and how to speak up and supervisors' ability to lead. Several of the sections relate to falls – check out: *Cover Up; To Check or Not to Check; Gimme Some Space; and Do We Have To?*



- 9. Empower and encourage workers to speak up** about fall risks and ask questions if they feel unsafe. Many times, workers stay quiet rather than ask questions even if they do not know the right way to do something or they have identified an issue that may lead to an unsafe situation. This can be for a variety of reasons – perhaps they do not want to look inexperienced, or they feel it would be frowned upon by management to speak up. Work to change the jobsite safety culture so this does not happen.
- 10. Make sure your message reaches your whole crew.** Provide training that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for your workforce. Use [resources in Spanish](#) to make sure your training reaches Spanish-speaking workers. Hispanic construction workers face higher risk of fatal falls than non-Hispanic construction workers. Some training organizations like the [Latino Worker Safety Center](#) offer fall protection and other courses in languages such as Arabic, Polish, and Chinese, and you may be able to work with local translators or community organizations to put materials into other languages appropriate for your crew.

For more tools, handouts, and other resources, visit stopconstructionfalls.com.