

**May 2-6, 2022** is the 9<sup>th</sup> annual **National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction** – an opportunity to pause work on jobsites to strengthen fall protection and rescue planning and talk about fall safety with crews, large and small. Below are ideas for how to participate in the Stand-Down. If you have questions about fall protection compliance or would like to file a complaint, you can **contact OSHA here**.

To protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19 in your workplace be sure to be aware of and follow the most recent workplace guidance from <u>OSHA</u> and <u>CDC</u>. CDC provides information on <u>COVID-19 community levels</u>. CPWR has a variety of <u>COVID-19 resources</u> for the construction industry.

#### 1. Create or Strengthen Your Written Fall Protection and Rescue Plan

#### Do you have a written fall protection and rescue plan? If so, can it be improved?

Planning is critical. In a recent survey by CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR), respondents who witnessed, experienced, or investigated a past fall incident identified insufficient or ineffective planning as the number one underlying cause of the fall.

Use <u>this generic template</u> to create a fall protection and rescue plan. For small employers or those just beginning to plan for falls, <u>click here for a shorter, simpler</u> <u>plan</u> (both templates are <u>available in Spanish</u>).



*CPWR also has a Rescue Planning Tip Sheet coming soon to stopconstructionfalls.com (image on right).* 

#### 2. Attend Virtual or In-Person Stand-Down Events



Check out **OSHA's Stand-Down Events Page** to find regional or national virtual or inperson events. Or attend webinars on fall prevention:

- Watch the recording of the OSHA, NIOSH, and CPWR English-language Kick-Off for the 2022 Stand-Down.
- Watch the recording of the OSHA, NIOSH, and CPWR Spanish-language 2022 Falls Stand-Down Webinar.



# **3. Train Workers in a Language** They Use

Use the Stand-Down as an opportunity to assess whether all your fall protection planning, materials, and trainings are available in the languages used by your crew. You can use <u>Spanish-language</u> <u>resources</u> and <u>additional language resources</u> here.

# 4. Inspect Equipment and Revisit Job Hazard Analyses



Use this week as an opportunity to inspect all equipment, tag and remove any equipment that is damaged or broken, and review and reinforce your company's expectations for daily pre-shift safety checks. Make sure workers know your company's procedures for inspecting, tagging, and removing equipment and confirm that managers are providing sufficient time for workers to perform these daily duties.

Revisit your Job Hazard Analyses (JHAs) and other safety check procedures at your worksite. Ensure a <u>competent</u> <u>person</u> has identified hazards and their <u>solutions</u>. Discuss findings with workers to ensure the best solutions are being used to prevent falls. If you do not currently have JHAs for your worksite, visit our planning page for a <u>Daily</u> <u>Job Site Checklist for Recognizing and Preventing Falls</u>.

## 5. Share & Discuss Short Videos and Podcasts

Only have time for a short conversation? Watch or listen to <u>short videos and podcasts</u> that are available in English and Spanish with your crew. Then engage workers in a discussion about how they might apply the information on the job. Looking specifically for Spanish videos? Check out CPWR's playlist, <u>Prevención de caídas</u>.

## 6. Hold a Fall Story Share

Sometimes we all need a reminder that we're not invincible – especially in our younger years. Ask employees and managers to share stories about how falls have changed their lives and what they are doing now to prevent falls. Personal testimonials in <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u> are one of the most powerful ways to communicate the serious consequences of falls and the fact that they can happen to even the most seasoned professionals if appropriate prevention and protection measures aren't taken. You can also use <u>NIOSH's Fatality Assessment and Control</u> <u>Evaluation reports</u> in English and Spanish for examples of stories of fatal falls to start conversations with your crew.



#### 7. Conduct a Toolbox Talk

CPWR has a variety of FREE **toolbox talks** in English and Spanish to help guide training reinforcement and discussion during shift meetings on topics such as aerial lift safety, preventing falls from rooftops, extension ladders, guardrails, and falls from heavy equipment.





## 7. Ask Employees for Their Insights

Dedicate time to asking employees for their recommendations on how to improve fall protection. Employees may have new ideas for how to improve planning, rescue, or other fall protection practices on your jobsite. Also, engaging and empowering team members promotes <u>safety leadership</u>.

# 8. Conduct a Fall Protection Equipment Demonstration

Conduct a safety presentation or fall protection demo. Many fall protection companies are willing to visit job sites to provide demonstrations of equipment. Or you can consult other resources such as an <u>article on harness fit</u>, a <u>webinar in English on harness fit</u>, a <u>video in Spanish on harness fit</u>, or a <u>factsheet on PPE fit for women</u>.

## 9. Get Your Formal Certificate of Participation

After the Stand-Down ends, visit **OSHA's website** to receive your official certificate of participation in recognition of the time and effort you devoted to talk about preventing falls with your crew. Returning participants are encouraged to register for new certificates annually. Certificates are now available in Spanish.







©2022, CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training. All rights reserved. Production of this publication was supported by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) cooperative agreement OH 009762. The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of NIOSH.

