

# RESOURCE GUIDE

## Fall Prevention in Residential Construction Training

Fall Hazard Awareness, Prevention, Solutions and Rescue

### Key Points

- Falls continue to be the leading cause of fatalities in residential construction.
  - More than 40% of fatal falls occurred from heights 15 feet or lower.
- Workers engaged in residential construction six (6) feet or more above lower levels must be protected by conventional fall protection (i.e., guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems) or other fall protection measures.



**Guardrails**



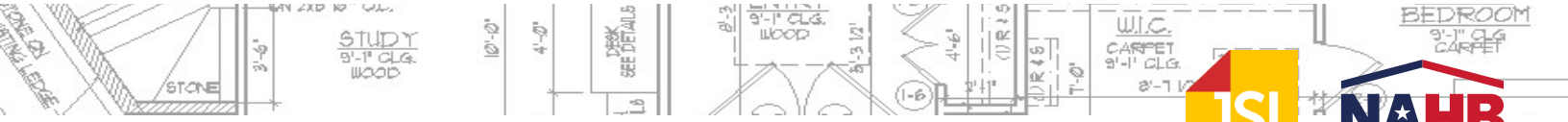
**Safety Nets**



**Personal Fall Arrest System**

- Consider working from a ladder, scaffold or aerial lift to reduce your risk of fall hazards.
- OSHA allows the use of fall restraint systems in lieu of a personal fall arrest system.
  - A fall restraint system must be rigged to prevent a worker from reaching a fall hazard and falling over the edge.
- Training - in accordance with 29 CFR 1926.503, employers must ensure that each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards has been trained by a competent person to recognize the hazards of falling and in the procedures to be followed to minimize those hazards.
  - Verify training by preparing a written certification record that contains the name of the employee trained, the date of training, and the instructor's signature.
- If an employer can demonstrate that fall protection required under 1926.501(b)(13) is infeasible or presents a greater hazard it must implement a written, site-specific fall protection plan meeting the requirements of 29 CFR 1926.502(k).
  - The fall protection plan must specify alternative measures that will be used to eliminate or reduce the possibility of employee falls.
  - Employers have the burden of establishing that it is appropriate to implement a fall protection plan.
  - Employers will be required to demonstrate the infeasibility of the required conventional fall protection systems or that such systems create a greater hazard if using alternative fall protection measures and a fall protection plan.
  - There is a presumption that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement one of the conventional fall protection methods.





- Create a fall protection rescue plan to describe the steps, tools and equipment to safely and quickly rescue fallen or suspended workers.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

***There is a "Sample Fall Protection Plan" in Appendix E of Subpart M. Why did OSHA prepare this appendix?***

**Answer:** OSHA included Appendix E in Subpart M to show employers and employees what a compliant fall protection plan might look like.

***Is OSHA prohibiting the use of slideguards, safety monitors, warning lines and other forms of alternate fall protection during residential construction?***

**Answer:** Slideguards, safety monitors, warning lines and other forms of alternate fall protection cannot simply be used in lieu of conventional fall protection methods under 1926.501(b)(13). However, alternate means may be used as part of a written, site-specific fall protection plan that meets the requirements of 1926.502(k) if the employer can demonstrate that the use of conventional fall protection (i.e., guardrail, safety net, or personal fall arrest systems) would be infeasible or create greater hazards.

***Can general contractors who hire subcontractors be subject to OSHA citations for work that is conducted by a subcontractor's employees?***

**Answer:** Yes, under OSHA's Multi-Employer Citation Policy more than one employer may be citable for a hazardous condition that violates an OSHA standard.

***When do I need to have a written fall protection plan?***

**Answer:** It is required to have a written and site-specific fall protection plan when employees are protected by non-conventional, or alternative fall protection methods.

## **Resources**

- JSI/NAHB "Fall Prevention in Residential Construction" training PowerPoint Presentation: <https://www.nahb.org/en/learn/course-overviews/fall-prevention-in-residential-construction.aspx>
- JSI/NAHB Video Toolbox Talks: [www.nahb.org/toolboxtalks](http://www.nahb.org/toolboxtalks)
- NAHB safety training toolkits: [www.nahb.org/safety](http://www.nahb.org/safety)
- Need a safety program? [www.nahb.org/safetyprogram](http://www.nahb.org/safetyprogram)
- OSHA residential fall protection information: [www.osha.gov/doc/residential\\_fall\\_protection.html](http://www.osha.gov/doc/residential_fall_protection.html)
- Job-Site Safety Institute: [www.jssafety.org](http://www.jssafety.org)

## **Contact Information**

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