

Fall Protection

It has been more than ten years since fall protection training became mandatory for all Ontario construction workers. Yet, in 2008, falls were the cause of more than 50% of traumatic deaths and more than 60% of critical injuries.

These statistics are disturbing. Falls are preventable.

Every worker who has received fall protection training knows how to prevent falls, so make sure that knowledge is put to use. Strictly enforce fall protection on your jobsite.

Don't forget about the site-specific portion of fall protection training. Here are a few of the basics that should be covered during site-specific training.

- ◆ Walk around the site with your workers and point out the fall hazards they will encounter and how they are being controlled (e.g., guardrails around floor openings, travel restraint on upper stories). As site conditions change, address new fall hazards with your crew.
- ◆ Show workers how to use the type of fall protection equipment you are giving them (e.g., rope grabs, lanyards, etc.). Have them demonstrate to ensure they know how to use everything properly.
- ◆ Identify the anchor points workers should use to tie off.
- ◆ Point out the areas on the jobsite where guardrails have been put up versus the areas where personal fall protection is required.

Workers can always use a refresher on fall protection—especially when you consider the number of workers who are still falling.

Source: CSAO.