

Tools for Life – Weekly Health & Safety Meeting



Plan-Provide-Train

Date: May 4, 2021

There are 3 elements to successfully prevent falls: Plan, Provide and Train.

PLAN to get the job done safely. When working from heights, employers must plan projects to ensure that the job is done safely. The first fall protection planning step is to know at what level fall protection must be implemented. Some states and projects require fall protection at 4 feet, but others begin at 6 feet. Begin by deciding how the job will be done, what tasks will be involved, what hazards can be eliminated and what safety equipment may be needed to complete each task. Be sure to complete a written Fall Protection Plan and review it with the affected employees. Remember to train new employees as they come to the jobsite. Remember Fall Protection Plans are specific to each site. If you go to a new site, make sure you review and sign the Fall Protection Plan for that new site.

When estimating the cost of a job, include safety equipment as part of the costs. Plan to have all the necessary equipment and tools that improve safety outcomes available at the construction site. For example, when working on a roof, think about all of the different fall hazards, such as holes or skylights and leading edges, then plan and select fall protection suitable to that work, such as personal fall arrest systems (PFAS).

PROVIDE the right equipment. Workers who are four feet or more above lower levels are at risk for serious injury or death if they should fall. To protect these workers, employers must provide the right equipment for the job, including the right kinds of ladders, scaffolds, aerial lifts, and safety gear like fall protection harnesses.

Using the right ladder or scaffold helps to get the job done safely. For roof work, if workers use personal fall arrest systems (PFAS), provide a harness for each worker who needs to tie off to the anchor. Make sure the PFAS fits, and regularly inspect it for safe use.

TRAIN everyone to use the equipment safely. Every worker should be trained on proper set-up and safe use of equipment they use on the job. Employers must train workers in recognizing hazards on the job.

SAFETY REMINDER: When work conditions change, it is important to stop and evaluate if the work can proceed safely. If there are any doubts, contact your Safety Representative.

Discussion Points/Quiz:

1. Does your jobsite have fall protection plan(s) and are you trained on it?
2. On your project, at what height must you use fall protection?
3. What are some tools and equipment used on your project that make it safer to access elevated work?