



# BIE SAFETY ADVISOR

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Fall Safety Stand-Down May 8-12, 2017

Fatalities caused by falls from elevation continue to be a leading cause of death for construction employees, accounting for 350 of the 937 construction fatalities recorded in 2015 (BLS data). **Those deaths were preventable.** The National Fall Prevention Stand-Down raises fall hazard awareness across the country in an effort to stop fall fatalities and injuries.

**What is the Fall Safety Stand-down?** – It is a voluntary event for employers to talk directly to employees about safety. Any workplace can hold a stand-down by taking a break to focus on "Fall Hazards" and reinforcing the importance of "Fall Prevention". It's an opportunity for employers to have a conversation with employees about hazards, protective methods, and the company's safety policies and goals. It can also be an opportunity for employees to talk to management about fall hazards they see.

**Who Can Participate?** Anyone who wants to prevent falls in the workplace can participate in the Stand-Down. In past years, participants included commercial construction companies of all sizes, residential construction contractors, sub- and independent contractors, highway construction companies, general industry employers, the U.S. Military, other government participants, unions, employer's trade associations, institutes, worker interest organizations, and safety equipment manufacturers.

**How Does My Company Conduct A Safety Stand-Down?** Companies can conduct a Safety Stand-Down by taking a break to have a toolbox talk or another safety activity such as conducting safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing job specific hazards. Managers are encouraged to plan a stand-down that works best for their workplace anytime during May 8-12. See [Suggestions to Prepare for a Successful "Stand-Down"](#)

([www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/suggestions.html](http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/suggestions.html)). The link to the Frequently Asked Questions is: [www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/faqs.html](http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/faqs.html)

OSHA also hosts an Events page with events that are free and open to the public to help employers and workers find events in your area, just click on Region II

[www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/calendar.html](http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/calendar.html)

## OSHA to Delay Enforcement of the Crystalline Silica Standard for the Construction Industry -

On April 6, 2017 OSHA announced it will delay in the enforcement of the [crystalline silica standard](#) in construction from June 23 to Sept. 23, 2017. The three-month delay will allow for more outreach to be conducted and guidance provided to employers. The compliance deadlines for general industry and maritime, set for June 2018, remain unchanged. For more information, read the news release, [https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=33810](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=33810)



OSHA determined that additional guidance is necessary for companies due to the unique nature of the requirements in the construction standard.

OSHA expects employers in the construction industry to continue to take steps either to come into compliance with the new permissible exposure limit, or to implement specific dust controls for certain operations as provided in Table 1 of the standard. Construction employers should also continue to prepare to implement the standard's other requirements, including exposure assessment, medical surveillance and employee training.



## Aerial Lifts

Aerial lifts are vehicle-mounted devices that allow workers to perform work above the ground. Construction workers involved in aerial lift accidents could face falls, broken bones and death. Approximately 26 construction workers die each year from using aerial lifts. More than half of the deaths involve boom-supported lifts, such as bucket trucks and cherry pickers. These require a body harness with an energy-absorbing lanyard connected to an anchor point provided by the manufacturer. Most of the remaining deaths are electrocutions, falls and tip-overs involving scissor lifts. OSHA requires full guardrails on scissor lifts.

### *Here is an Example*

*Al was working in the aerial lift bucket repairing a sign near some electrical wires. The base of the lift had not been positioned on a flat surface. At one point the lift shifted and one edge caught the electrical wires. Al was shocked by the current and fell 20 feet to the ground. He died as a result of the injuries.*

- 1. Why did this accident happen?*
- 2. How could this injury have been prevented?*
- 3. Have you ever had an injury from aerial lifts or know someone who has had an injury from aerial lifts? If so, what happened?*

## Preventing Injuries from Aerial Lifts

### ***Before Operating An Aerial Lift***

- Check operating and emergency controls.
- Check safety devices such as outriggers, guardrails, and personal fall protection equipment.
- Look for leaks of air, hydraulic fluid and fuel.
- Look for a level surface that won't shift. Never exceed the manufacturer's slope limits.
- Look for hazards such as holes, bumps, debris and overhead power lines.
- Set outriggers, brakes and wheel chocks, even if on a level surface.
- If working near traffic, set up work zone warnings using cones and signs.

### ***While Operating an Aerial Lift***

- Always close lift platform chains or doors.
- Always wear fall arrest equipment with lanyard attached to a designated anchor point.
- Always stand on the floor of the bucket. Do Not climb on or lean over guardrails.
- Do not exceed the load limits.
- Do not drive an aerial lift with the lift extended, unless designed for that purpose.
- Set outriggers, brakes and wheel chokes, even if on a level surface.
- If working near traffic, set up work zone warnings using cones and signs

This toolbox talk was developed by the CPWR, the Center for Construction Research and Training.  
[http://stopconstructionfalls.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CPWR\\_Aerial\\_Lifts.pdf](http://stopconstructionfalls.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CPWR_Aerial_Lifts.pdf)

