

Fall Hazards—Assessment & Prevention

The Top 10 OSHA Violations of 2014

Each year OSHA outlines the top 10 violations. All the standards on this year's list have been in the top ten list before, they may have just switched locations. The top four remain in exactly the same position as they were in 2013 & 2012.

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| 1. Fall protection (construction) | 6. Powered industrial trucks |
| 2. Hazard communication | 7. Electrical, wiring methods |
| 3. Scaffolding (construction) | 8. Ladders (construction) |
| 4. Respiratory protection | 9. Machine guarding |
| 5. Lockout/tagout | 10. Electrical (general) |

Now is a good time for all supervisors to revisit these topics with their employees, especially if the employees are involved in any activities related to an OSHA top 10 violation. If you have any questions pertaining to these safety areas, contact EHS at 205-348-5905.

National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction

A “safety stand-down” is an activity, normally held on a construction site, where normal work is suspended while all employees focus on a safety issue. The National Falls Campaign is using this term to draw attention to fall hazards. Since falls are the No. 1 cause of construction fatalities, accounting for more than 3,500 deaths in the past decade, OSHA is encouraging **all** industries to get involved in the campaign. According to Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, “Responsible employers understand that safety is not a luxury—it is a necessity.”

Falls occur from roofs, ladders and scaffolding. It is important that employees understand that fatal falls happen at heights of less than 6 feet (example, falls from ladders). To prevent falls, supervisors should **PLAN** ahead to get the job done safely, **PROVIDE** the right equipment and **TRAIN** everyone to be mindful of the work environment and use equipment safely. While these **resources** repeatedly reference construction safety, the safety details pertaining to ladder use and fall protection still applies to fall hazards on campus. For more information click on each word in red and “More Details” below.

More Details Provides additional training resources on ladders, scaffolding, roofing and even aerial lifts.

Questions or comments? Email Christy Herron at cherron@fa.ua.edu or call 205-348-5939.



NIOSH Ladder Safety app

NIOSH has released an app focused on ladder safety. The app is free and was created in hopes of improving extension ladder safety. It does not supply information related to the use of stepladders. The app aids in the selection, inspection and position of ladders for safe use. This was the first app NIOSH released for smart phone application. More information on the app is supplied on the NIOSH website [here](#).

