

Who Falls?

- ⑨ 18-72 years of age
- ⑨ Most are 20-39 years of age
- ⑨ Falls result mostly from slippery surfaces, trips, or loss of balance
- ⑨ 50% fall from ladders and scaffolds
- ⑨ 53% occur from a distance of 10 feet or less
- ⑨ Most accidents occur on Monday
- ⑨ Most accidents happen in the morning
- ⑨ Most fall victims are not wearing fall protection
- ⑨ Length of service was not a factor, but training was

How much does a fall cost your company?

Average Fall	\$43,708
Out One Month	\$54,240
Death	\$403,968



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Fall Protection



Special Emphasis Program



Tennessee OSHA's Special Emphasis Program on Occupational Fall Protection

Tennessee OSHA has instituted a Special Emphasis Program to better identify actual and potential fall hazards and provide for the control or elimination of these hazards. On each inspection or consultative visit, TOSHA compliance officers and consultants will evaluate fall hazards in the workplace and intervene where employees are exposed. In addition, whenever and wherever TOSHA staff members observe employees exposed to fall hazards, they are empowered to stop and conduct an inspection.

What Can Falls Do to You?

Each year in the United States falls account for more than 200 fatalities and 100,000 injuries. These occur in all areas of employment and almost all occupations. In Tennessee, falls have been a leading cause of work-related deaths for the past several years.

Tennessee Fatalities From Falls 2000-2004

Year	Fatalities
2000	15
2001	13
2002	6
2003	11
2004	6

Where Do Fall Hazards Exist?

In general industry workers must be protected when the fall hazard is greater than four feet. Fall hazards that occur in an industrial setting are often less obvious than those that occur on a construction site. In an industrial workplace fall hazards can occur from storage areas above offices and on mezzanines, catwalks, floor holes and manholes, scaffolds, certain types of material handling equipment, elevated work platforms, and even employees climbing onto equipment to perform a repair or make an adjustment. These hazards can be controlled with the use of guard rails, covers, personal fall arrest equipment, and employee training.

Fall hazards are present during almost all phases of construction. Workers in construction must be protected when the fall hazard is greater than six feet.

These hazards often occur during excavation, steel erection, concrete forming and pouring, work from scaffolding, and roofing.



Suggestions For Employers

The majority of fatalities that occur on construction projects are from falls, and falls are a significant source of serious injury. Almost all trades are exposed to fall hazards at some point during the performance of their work. The fall hazard must be identified and protection provided through the use of guard rail systems, personal fall arrest equipment (body harness, lanyard etc.), controlled access areas, nets, and employee awareness training.

TOSHA is committed to helping employees and employers identify fall hazards and select the necessary protection to control or eliminate the hazard. This Special Emphasis Program will help TOSHA meet this goal.

For more information contact TOSHA at 1-800-249-8510 or visit the OSHA Internet site at www.osha.gov.

<http://bus.utk.edu/cirpc/StopFalls.html>

