

Safety Meetings are important!

They: get your employees actively involved
encourage safety awareness
help identify problems before they become accidents
motivate employees to follow proper safety procedures

We are happy to provide you with a monthly topic for your agenda.

ROUTE TO:

- General Manager
- Safety Coordinator
- Supervisor Dept. _____
- Other _____
- Date of Meeting _____

November 2021**Fall Protection
Walking/Working Surfaces**

The National Safety Council published the Top 10 OSHA violations for 2021.

1. Fall Protection – General Requirements (1926.501): 5,295 violations
2. Respiratory Protection (1910.134): 2,527
3. Ladders (1926.1053): 2,026
4. Scaffolding (1926.451): 1,948
5. Hazard Communication (1910.1200): 1,947
6. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147): 1,698
7. Fall Protection – Training Requirements (1926.503): 1,666
8. Personal Protective and Lifesaving Equipment – Eye and Face Protection (1926.102): 1,452
9. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178): 1,420
10. Machine Guarding (1910.212): 1,113

A more in-depth analysis of the Top 10 violations for 2021 will be published in the December edition of Safety+Health magazine, a National Safety Council publication.





Fall Protection was the *Number 1* cited OSHA safety violation for the 11th year in a row.

Fall protection is defined as any means used to protect workers from falls during work in areas where fall hazards exist. Fall protection is essentially a system that protects workers who could lose their balance at any given height (four feet in General Industry; e.g. docks) from falling, usually resulting in injuries. One way to help train employees on Fall Protection is to implement the recently published safety practice from the GAWDA Safety Committee. This document covers where falls are likely to occur and how to protect against falls in those areas, including:

- *Guardrails
- *Stairs
- *Skylights
- *Safety Nets
- *Ramps
- *Mezzanines/Elevated Storage Areas
- *Loading Docks

Walking Working surfaces, although not specifically listed on the OSHA Top 10, are included in Fall Protection, Ladders, Scaffolding and the Fall Protection Training requirements. The main parts of the Walking-Working Surfaces rule are hazard assessment, inspections, training, and equipment. All general industry employers must:

- **Conduct hazard assessments** to determine their workplace fall and falling object hazards.
- **Inspect all walking and working surfaces** for fall or falling object hazards on a regular basis and as necessary.
- **Train and retrain** when necessary their employees on fall protection systems and equipment.
 - Fall protection systems include:
 - Personal fall protection,
 - Safety nets,
 - Ladder safety systems,
 - Portable guardrail systems,
 - Dockboard systems, and
 - Designated areas.
 - Equipment that requires training includes:
 - All ladder types, and
 - Personal fall protection equipment.



The GAWDA Safety Committee published a safety practice to aid compliance and training on Walking Working Surfaces. Some areas that can be particularly dangerous include: production areas, entryways, height transition areas and liquid fill areas. Also the type of footwear and weather conditions can present their own type of hazards (for more information on weather related walking/working issues please review the October GAWDA Safety Organizer).

Both the Fall Protection and Walking Working Surface Safety Practices may be found on the Member's Only page under the Sample Safety Practices tab.

If you have any questions about these topics, or any other DHS, EPA or OSHA topic, please contact:

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