



BIE SAFETY ADVISOR

7th Annual National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction Rescheduled for September 14-18, 2020

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced today that the 7th annual National Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction has been rescheduled for September 14-18, 2020. While OSHA postponed the event earlier this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, employers are encouraged to promote fall safety virtually and/or while employing social distancing practices among small groups.

"This national initiative brings much needed attention to falls, which continue to be the leading cause of fatalities in construction," said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt. Fatalities caused by falls from elevation accounted for 320 of the 1,008 construction fatalities recorded in 2018 (BLS data). Those deaths were preventable.

The national safety stand-down is part of OSHA's fall prevention campaign, and was developed in partnership with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), National Occupational Research Agenda, and The Center for Construction Research and Training.

The Stand-Down provides an opportunity for employers to talk about fall hazards, protective methods, and the company's safety policies, goals, and expectations. Companies can participate by having toolbox talks or other safety activities such as conducting safety inspections of fall protection equipment, developing fall rescue

plans, or discussing job-specific fall hazards.

Extensive resources are available on OSHA's Fall Prevention Stand-Down webpage at <http://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown>.

Resources include:

- A brief video entitled "5 Ways to Prevent Workplace Falls," which encourages employers to educate and train workers on fall protection equipment;
- A series of fall prevention publications, with an emphasis on construction, and fall prevention videos;
- OSHA's Fall Prevention Training Guide, which provides a lesson plan for employers, including several Toolbox Talks; and
- Guidance on ladder and scaffolding safety.

Employers are also encouraged to promote the event by using the #StandDown4Safety on social media, provide feedback after their events, and download a personalized certificate of participation. The certificate pages will be active on September 14th at OSHA's and the National Safety Council's (NSC) webpages.

To get an OSHA representative to participate in your Stand-Down contact Region 2 Stand-Down coordinator, James Giarraputo at Giarraputo.James@dol.gov or 201-250-1778. To participate in an event, a list of public events in your area can be found by visiting OSHA's Stand-Down website. These events are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov.



