



# Weekly Safety Tip

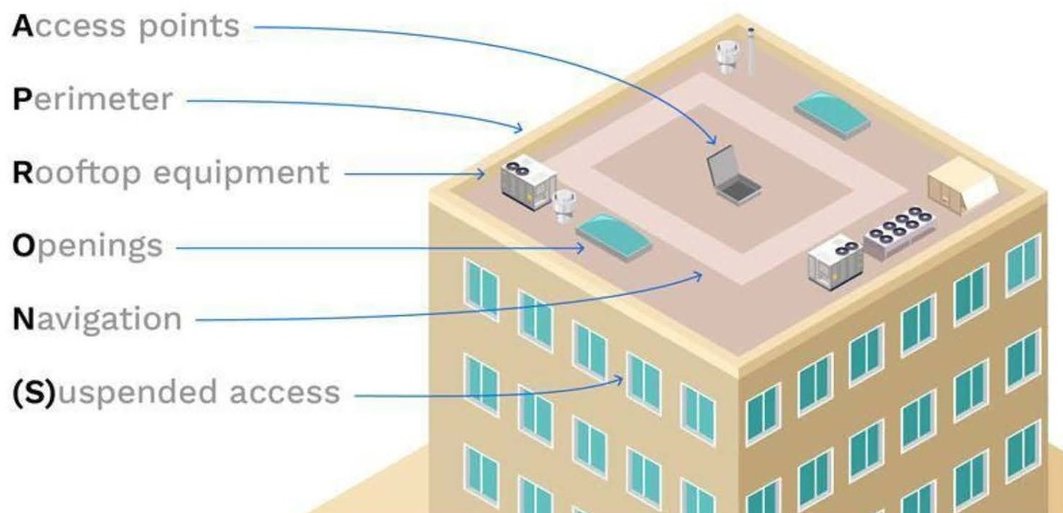
## Prevent and Protect Against Falls With HOC



### Protect against and prevent falls by apply the Hierarchy of Controls (HOC)



*These SAFETY TIPS will discuss how to apply the Hierarchy of Fall Protection Controls to identifying and determining the feasibility of various solutions for fall hazards.*



#### Apply the Hierarchy of Fall Protection Controls to Save Lives (& Money)

Year after year, falls continue to be a leading cause of death and injury on construction sites. OSHA releases an annual report with fall protection violations given each year, including violations regarding equipment misuse, lack of proper training, ladder safety, and scaffold safety as well; bringing nearly half of OSHA's Top Ten citations related to fall protection for nearly the past decade.

Per OSHA 1926.501, employers must protect construction workers who are in an environment with the potential to fall six feet or more to the next lower level. (Note that general industry companies must adhere to OSHA 1910 and must be protected at four feet or more.) On a typical job site, the next lower level could be an elevator shaft, several floors of unfinished framing, steel beams, rebar, heavy machinery, the hard earth below, or even an excavation pit underneath that.

Additionally, **once an employer is made aware of a safety hazard, they are obligated to find a solution.** OSHA presumes that basic fall protection methods like guardrail or personal fall protection systems are feasible. Note that feasibility does not necessarily equate to cost-effectiveness.

#### The Hierarchy of Fall Protection Controls

The **Hierarchy of Fall Protection Controls** offers a systematic approach to identifying solutions that can keep workers as safe as possible. The last thing an employer should want is for an employee to get injured or killed while on the job. The next worst thing would be wasting resources on ineffective solutions that still didn't properly protect a worker from danger.

Applying this hierarchy of controls to the decision-making process of evaluating solutions puts the worker's safety top-of-mind, and then progressively places the worker closer to the hazard but with further personal protective measures.

# **Weekly Safety Share**



**Safe And Sound Week August  
2025**

**SAFE +  
SOUND  
WEEK  
2025**  
**AUGUST 11-17**

## Did You Know?

Safe + Sound Week is August 11-17.

This year we are providing resources and activities for businesses on [emergency preparedness and response](#).

Sign up to participate.

**[OSHA.gov/SafeAndSoundWeek](https://www.osha.gov/SafeAndSoundWeek)**

## **PREPARE** for Workplace Emergencies

### **WHY?**

**The best time to prepare for an emergency is before it happens.**

Proper planning is necessary to respond quickly and effectively. This can result in fewer and less severe worker injuries and less damage to workplaces.

### **WHAT?**

#### **Natural Disasters**

- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Fires
- Earthquakes
- Snow or ice storms

#### **Outages**

Electricity, water, or other essential services

#### **Chemical Emergencies**

- Toxic gas releases
- Chemical spills
- Radiological accidents

#### **Social/Civil Emergencies**

- Public health emergencies & pandemics
- Civil disturbances
- Terrorism or war
- Workplace violence

### **HOW?**

**Sign up for emergency alert notifications and make a plan.**

Emergency Action Plans can include...

- Emergency reporting procedures
- Evacuation procedures and maps
- Communication procedures
- First-aid, AED, and other important materials locations
- Emergency training policies or requirements
- Staff contacts and emergency responsibilities
- Local emergency services information

### **WHO?**

**Safety planning is everyone's responsibility.**

Every workplace can be affected by an emergency.

**NOTE:** Along with this SHARE we are providing a handout of an OSHA Quiz on E-Preparedness . . .

**DA Varwig for SCNWO**

[Download Emergency Preparedness and Response Quiz Here](#)



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