



# **Weekly Safety Tip**

**10 Lessons on Fall  
Restraint**

## 10 Key Lessons from ANSI/ASSP Z359

### < ASSP Fall Restraint Forum >

March 20, 2024



*The trend line of fatalities from falls is not heading in the right direction.*

**While the number of serious injuries with days missed from work is decreasing, fall fatalities have been increasing since 2009**, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This has led the [ANSI/ASSP Z359](#) standards committee to question:

*How can we influence standards to change that?*

During a recent Fall Restraint Forum, members of the full and subcommittee discussed how the standards are evolving and highlighted specific sections of the Z359 standards that should be reviewed to improve an organization's fall protection program.

Here are 10 key lessons safety professionals can take away from their discussion.

**Key Lesson 1: Conduct More In-Depth Assessments Using Z359.2**

**Key Lesson 2: Take a “Small Ball” Approach Using the Hierarchy of Controls**

**Key Lesson 3: Involve Quality Control in Selecting Anchorages**

**Key Lesson 4: Anchorage Height Is Worth Its Own Lesson**

**Key Lesson 5: Use the Right Tool for the Job**

**Key Lesson 6: Trust, but Verify Products**

**Key Lesson 7: Standardize Your Systems to Improve Quality**

**Key Lesson 8: Visualize the Fall Cycle**

**Key Lesson 9: Don't Let Good Procedures Get Dusty (or Ditched)**

**Key Lesson 10: Training Must Include an “Observation of Performance”**

NOTE: The following five pages provide discussion highlights on each key lesson... DaveV

# Weekly Safety Share



# Emergency Response Standard

## Proposed



## Safety & Health Share

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration

29 CFR Part 1910 [Docket No. OSHA–2007–0073] RIN 1218–AC91

### Emergency Response Standard

**ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.**

*The proposed rule defines two types of emergency response workers: responders and team members. For purposes of the discussion in this section and the Health Effects of Emergency Response Activities section that follows, both types of workers are referred to as “emergency responders” or “emergency response personnel.”*

**SUMMARY:** OSHA is proposing to issue a new safety and health standard, titled **Emergency Response**, to replace the existing Fire Brigades Standard.

This new standard would address a broader scope of emergency responders and would include programmatic elements to protect emergency responders from a variety of occupational hazards.

OSHA requests comments on all aspects of the proposed rule to be submitted by **May 6, 2024**.

OSHA will schedule an **informal public hearing on the proposed rule if requested** during the comment period. If a hearing is requested, the location and date of the hearing, procedures for interested parties to notify the agency of their intention to participate, and procedures for participants to submit their testimony and documentary evidence will be announced in the Federal Register.

#### I. Executive Summary

A “100-word summary” is available on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Elements of **emergency responder** (firefighters, emergency medical service providers, and technical search and rescuers) health and safety are currently regulated by OSHA primarily under a patchwork of hazard-specific standards, and by state regulations in states with OSHA-approved State plan programs.

(While OSHA standards do not apply to volunteers, some volunteers are covered in states with OSHA-approved State plan programs.)

All of the OSHA standards referred to above were promulgated decades ago, and none was designed as a comprehensive emergency response standard. Consequently, they do not address the full range of hazards currently facing emergency responders, nor do they reflect major changes in performance specifications for protective clothing and equipment or major improvements in safety and health practices that have already been accepted by the emergency response community and incorporated into industry consensus standards.

Notably, the OSHA standards do not align with the Department of Homeland Security’s National Incident Management System (NIMS), which guides all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergency incidents.

**In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001**, all government agencies, including OSHA, were directed to strengthen their preparedness to respond to terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. In response to this direction, the agency reviewed its standards applicable to the safe conduct of emergency response and disaster recovery activities and identified gaps in the protections for emergency responders and disaster recovery workers.

The agency subsequently published a Request for Information (RFI), using the Fire Brigades standard (29 CFR 1910.156) as a baseline for emergency response activities, to determine if it should proceed with updating and expanding the standard.



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