

Toolbox STCKY Talk



A way to help us recognize and manage situations that endanger our people, clients, partners, and communities.

Preventing Falls

Awareness

Falls continue to be one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities in construction, and they don't just happen from extreme heights. People get seriously hurt from falls at 6 feet, 4 feet, and even lower.

The reality is, falls often happen during routine work, when we get comfortable, rush, or assume the risk is low. It only takes a second for a normal task to turn into a life-altering event.

Identification

Before starting work, take a step back and identify:

- Where are we exposed to a fall hazard today? (edges, ladders, elevated work areas, uneven surfaces)
- What has changed? (weather, access points, housekeeping, sequencing)
- Are the right precautions in place – or are we relying on “getting by”?

Look beyond just height:

- Poor planning
- Improper use of fall protection equipment
- Missed or removed protections
- Complacency during familiar tasks

If we don't identify the exposure, we're leaving it to chance.

Response:

Once we recognize the risk, we act:

- Install and use proper fall protection (guardrails, covers, tie-offs)
- Use the right equipment the right way, inspect it before use
- Maintain good housekeeping and safe access points
- Slow down – don't rush to “just finish the task”

And most importantly:

- Speak up if something doesn't look right
- Stop work if protections aren't in place

