

Fall Hazard Alert

From 2018 to 2022, 3,351 U.S. workers died after falling from a height while at work.¹ In Oregon, 19 construction workers have died from falls since 2018, making it the leading cause of fatalities in this occupation. In many of these cases, the worker was alone or not wearing appropriate safety equipment.

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics [2023]. Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2018–2022.

Please observe the following safety tips:



- Prior to starting work, assess the work area for fall hazards and eliminate hazards if possible.
- For fall hazards that cannot be eliminated, implement:
 - Fall prevention measures such as guardrails, covers, or personal fall restraint systems;
 - Or fall control measures such as personal fall-arrest systems, positioning, or safety net system.
- Inspect fall protection equipment as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Make sure that your fall protection equipment fits properly and is appropriate for the work being performed.
- Employers should provide fall protection trainings such as the Oregon OSHA training below.

Safety tips sources: <https://www.osha.gov/fall-protection>
<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/tips/safety/fallprotect.html>

Examples of Fatal Stories

Case 1: A 52-year-old welder was replacing roof panels on an above ground storage tank, when he fell approximately 40 feet to the inside of the tank. He was wearing fall protection including a 50-foot lanyard attached to a cable. Because the fall protection system length was greater than the fall height, it did not engage to stop his fall.

Case 2: A 44-year-old construction worker fell 28 feet to the ground from a roof. He was not wearing a harness and wasn't tied off.

Case 3: Three employees were working on sheeting a roof when all three employees took a lunch break. Two employees left the job site for lunch, while one employee, a 40-year-old roofer, remained on the job site for lunch. While the other two employees were off-site for lunch, the 40-year-old roofer returned to the roof without a harness and fell approximately 12 feet to the ground, where the other two employees later found him.



OR-OSHA Fall Protection Resources:

