



Company \_\_\_\_\_ Job Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Weekly Tool Box Talk: **Fall Protection**

Falls are the leading cause of fatalities in the construction industry. An average of 362 fatal falls occurred each year from 1995 to 1999, with the trend on the increase. The following hazards cause the most fall-related injuries:

1. Unprotected Sides, Wall Openings, and Floor Holes
2. Improper Scaffold Construction
3. Unguarded Protruding Steel Rebars
4. Misuse of Portable Ladders

Almost all sites have unprotected sides and edges, wall openings, or floor holes at some point during construction. If these sides and openings are not protected at the site, injuries from falls or falling objects may result, ranging from sprains and concussions to death.

### How Do I Avoid Hazards?

Use at least one of the following whenever there is an exposure to a fall of 6 feet or more above a lower level:

- o Guardrail Systems
- o Safety Net Systems
- o Personal Fall Arrest Systems

Cover or guard floor holes as soon as they are created during new construction.

For existing structures, survey the site before working and continually audit as work continues. Guard or cover any openings or holes immediately.

Construct all floor hole covers so they will effectively support two times the weight of employees, equipment, and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any one time.

In general, it is better to use fall *prevention* systems, such as guardrails, than fall *protection* systems, such as safety nets or fall arrest devices, because they provide more positive safety means.

Safety Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Specific Topics: \_\_\_\_\_

M.S.D.S. Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Attended By:

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