



## Focus four: Same level falls

**PRESENTER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to today's toolbox talk! To promote a safe, injury-free work environment, we'll take a moment to ensure our teams understand potential hazards (and how to prevent them) before the start of the shift.

### AGENDA

- Overview of relevant safety policies/procedures.
- Demonstration of proper equipment/tool use.
- Discuss team questions/concerns.
- Review recent incidents/near misses.

### TOPIC

#### Enabling employees to recognize major same level hazards at construction worksites

Uneven surfaces, liquid spills, poor housekeeping — employees on construction worksites are exposed to fall hazards every day. OSHA defines a fall hazard as anything at your worksite that could cause you to lose your balance or lose bodily support and result in a fall. Any walking or working surface can be a potential fall hazard.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) found falls, slips and trips were the most frequent type of fatal event in the construction industry, representing 37.9% of all fatalities (418 of 1,102). Falls to a lower level constitute most of the deadly falls, slips and trips\*.

And, even when falls are not fatal, they can result in an injury severe enough to warrant days away from work. The National Safety Council reports that the average number of days away from work is 12 days when a worker has a same level fall\*\*.

To avoid falls, slips and trips, remember walking and working surfaces must\*\*\*:

- Be inspected for slip- and trip-causing factors including loose boards, liquid spills, snow, ice, etc.
- Have covers able to support at least twice the maximum weight of employees, equipment or materials over all holes. Labels must be readable on the covers.
- Have the strength and structural integrity to support equipment, materials and workers.
- Be clean, orderly and sanitary. Housekeeping should be a top priority on all worksites.

**If hazards and safety precautions are not met, please inform the worksite supervisor or foreman.**

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# TOOLBOX TALK



Risk Control at UFG Insurance | riskcontrol@unitedfiregroup.com

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### ATTENDEES (PLEASE CLEARLY SIGN YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME)

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**SUPERVISOR/SUPERINTENDENT SIGN OFF:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

### SOURCES:

\*Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2021/fatal-and-nonfatal-falls-slips-and-trips-in-the-construction-industry.htm>

\*\*National Safety Council: <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/work/safety-topics/falls-same-level/>

\*\*\*The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR): <https://www.cpwr.com/wp-content/uploads/Walking-Working-Surfaces-TBT.pdf>

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