

Fall prevention for a safe work environment

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 team understands potential hazards (and how to prevent them) before the start of the shift.

Today, our focus is on training that ensures you can work safely at heights above 6 feet or around dangerous equipment at lower heights.



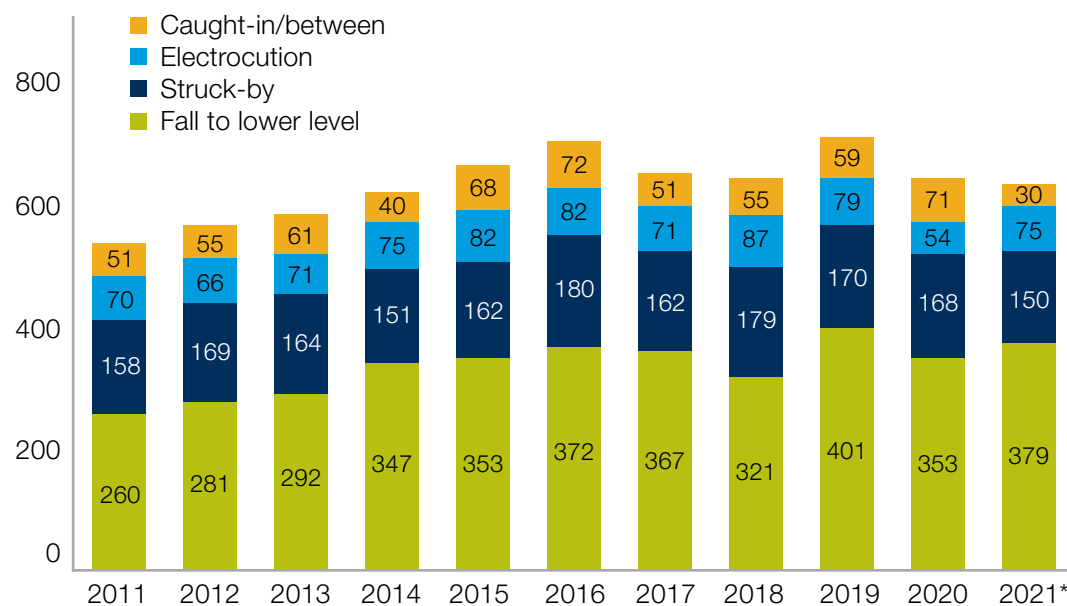
AGENDA

- Definitions for anchorage, body harness and components.
- Demonstration and practice of proper body harness use.
- Discuss team questions/concerns.
- Review recent incidents/near misses.

TOPIC

The majority of fatal occupational injuries and a large portion of nonfatal injuries include falls to a lower level. Every workplace is required to provide training to those who are exposed to fall hazards.

Number of fatal injuries by Focus Four injury type, 2011-2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011-2021 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

*Missing OIICS 64 (caught in/compressed by equipment/objects) in 2021 impacting caught-in/between and total values.

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First, all personal fall arrest systems must fit and have components that work properly.

Let's look at how the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines the elements of personal fall arrest systems:

- **Anchorage** – a secure point of attachment for lifelines, lanyards or deceleration devices.
- **Body harness** – straps which may be secured about the worker in a manner that will distribute the fall arrest forces over at least the thighs, pelvis, waist, chest and shoulders, with means for attaching it to other components of a personal fall arrest system.
- **Connector** – a device which is used to couple (connect) parts of the personal fall arrest system and positioning device systems together. It may be an independent component of the system, such as a carabiner, or it may be an integral component of part of the system (such as a buckle or D-ring sewn into a body belt or body harness, or a snap hook spliced or sewn to a lanyard or self-retracting lanyard).

It's **never** OK to wear a body belt (safety belt) instead of a body harness as a means of fall protection. In the past, there were injuries due to free falling more than 2 feet injuring the waist, thighs, pelvis and other body parts.

What will you secure your connector to so that it's capable of supporting twice the potential impact load of your fall? Is it capable of supporting 3,000 pounds? If not, get some assistance.

What fall hazards do we have at this site today and how will we work around them so that we all go home safely?

Remember: always report any unsafe conditions or practices.

The information contained in this service bulletin was obtained from reliable sources. However, UFG accepts no legal responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this information.

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ATTENDEES (PLEASE CLEARLY SIGN YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME)

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SUPERVISOR/SUPERINTENDENT SIGN OFF: _____ **DATE:** _____

SOURCES:

Data for fatal injuries from 2011 to 2021 were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a complete count of fatal injuries and their circumstances:
<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>

Estimates of nonfatal injuries for private, wage-and-salary construction workers from 2011 to 2020 were obtained from the BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), which are based on employer logs:
<https://www.bls.gov/iif/news.htm>

Personal fall arrest systems image and system definitions:
<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA3146.pdf>