



## Stand Tall, Stand Proud, and Stand-Down for Fall Safety!

### Third-annual Construction Fall Safety Stand-Down, May 2-6, 2016

Every day in this country, construction workers fall. One wrong step and they're tumbling down a steeply pitched roof, sliding or dropping off an unstable ladder, or left hanging from a scaffold. The difference between an unexpected stumble and tragedy is simple: fall protection.

Falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry, as hundreds of workers die each year and thousands more suffer catastrophic, debilitating injuries. Yet, lack of proper fall protection remains the most frequently cited violation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. To recognize this often fatal hazard, tens of thousands of employers and more than a million workers across the country are expected to join OSHA in 2016 for a weeklong Fall Safety Stand-Down, the largest occupational safety event ever held.

"With the economy on the rebound and housing starts on the rise, now is the time for all of us to renew our commitment to sending workers home safe every night," said Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. "Last year's Stand-Down showed us what employers and workers sharing that commitment can accomplish. Responsible employers understand that safety is not a luxury - it is a necessity."

From May 2-6, employers and workers will pause during their workday for topic talks, demonstrations, and training on how to use safety harnesses, guard rails, and other means to protect workers from falls. Underscoring the importance of this effort, industry and business leaders, including universities, labor organizations, and community and faith-based groups, have already begun scheduling 2016 stand-downs in all 50 states and around the world.

In observance of the national Fall Stand-Down the Nebraska Safety Council and the Home Builders Association of Lincoln are [sponsoring an event on May 3 at the Lancaster County Event Center](#). There will be a presentation by OSHA Area Director, Jeff Funke starting at noon, with fall protection and personal protective equipment on display. Safety professionals from the Nebraska Safety Council will be available to answer questions, a Spanish interpreter will be on hand and lunch will be available from the Lancaster Event Center for \$5.

"Fatal falls and injuries impact workers on job sites every day; it's a problem that takes a terrible toll on workers and their families," said Michaela Harrison, Executive Vice President of the Home Builders Association of Lincoln. "We are proud to partner with HBAL on this event," said Laurie Klosterboer, Executive Director of the Nebraska Safety Council "Together we urge our construction industry partners in Lincoln and across the State to take time to educate their employees on the importance of fall protection not only during the Stand-Down, but every day."

There are many resources available to employers to help with their stand-down events including [OSHA's National Safety Stand-Down 2016 Web site](#) which provides details on: how to conduct a Stand-Down; receive a certificate of participation; and access free education and training

resources, fact sheets and other outreach materials in English and Spanish. It will also include a list of stand-down events free and open to the public.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance.

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The Home Builders Association of Lincoln is a not-for-profit trade association which promotes home building through professional education, member communication and civic participation, and which represents builders and associated professionals in community, governmental and industry forums.

The Nebraska Safety Council is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to provide leadership and resources to promote a safe and healthy environment in our workplace and community.

Nebraska Safety Council, 3243 Cornhusker Hwy, Ste A10, Lincoln, NE 68504-1592

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