



TOOLBOX TALKS

TOOLBOX TALK: SAFETY WHILE WORKING ALOFT

Topic: Working Aloft / Elevated Work Safety

OSHA References:

- **29 CFR 1926.501** – Duty to Provide Fall Protection
- **29 CFR 1926.502** – Fall Protection Systems Criteria & Practices
- **29 CFR 1910.140** – Personal Fall Protection Systems
- **29 CFR 1926 Subpart X** – Ladders & Stairways

Overview

Working aloft means performing tasks at any height where a fall could occur—whether on ladders, scaffolds, lifts, roofs, platforms, or elevated structures. Falls continue to be a leading cause of workplace fatalities in construction. The goal is to **prevent falls before they happen** through planning, training, and proper equipment.

Key Safety Considerations

1. Training & Authorization

- Only trained and authorized personnel should work aloft.
- Ensure you understand the fall protection system being used.
- Never work aloft while fatigued or impaired.

2. Fall Protection Requirements

- **Fall protection is required at heights of 6 feet or more (OSHA 1926.501).**
- This may include:
 - Guardrails
 - Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS)
 - Positioning or restraint systems
 - Safety nets (as a last option)

Personal Fall Arrest System Requirements (OSHA 1926.502(d)):

- Full body harness (no body belts)
- Shock-absorbing lanyard or SRL (“retractable”)
- Anchor point must support **5,000 lbs** per worker or be designed by a qualified person.
- Inspect harness and lanyards **before every use**:
 - No rips, burns, cuts, or deformities on webbing
 - No frayed shock packs
 - Carabiners and hardware operate properly

3. Anchorage & Tie-Off Practices

- **Always connect before you leave the ground or safe level.**
- Keep your lanyard **above** you to prevent swing falls.

- Maintain **100% tie-off** when transferring anchor points.

4. Ladders & Scaffolds

- Ladders must be inspected daily and secured at the top when possible (OSHA 1926 Subpart X).
- Always maintain **3 points of contact** on ladders.
- Scaffolds must be fully planked and have guardrails when above 10 feet.

5. Lifts (Boom Lifts / Scissor Lifts)

- Wear a **full-body harness and lanyard in boom lifts**.
- Do **not** tie off to guardrails of the lift.
- Never stand on rails or use ladders inside lifts.

6. Tool & Material Control

- Tools should be secured when working overhead to prevent dropped items.
- Use tool lanyards when practical.
- Establish a **no-go drop zone** below the work area.

Stop Work Authority

If you identify:

- Missing guardrails

- Damaged harnesses or lanyards
- Unstable work platforms
- Unsafe weather (wind, lightning, etc.)

You are **required to stop work** and notify supervision immediately. Everyone has the authority and responsibility to prevent a fall.

Discussion Questions for Crew

- Do we have **proper anchors** available at our work areas today?
- Are there any **lifts, ladders, or scaffolds** scheduled, and are they inspected?
- Does everyone working aloft have **current fall protection training**?

SIGN-IN SHEET

Toolbox Talk Topic: Safety While Working Aloft

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

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