

Top 5 OSHA Violations in Residential Construction

Approximately 40,000 workers are injured on residential construction sites each year. Framing contractors are at a particular risk for injuries, with a rate more than double the injury rate for residential construction workers overall (11% vs. 5%). Many of the injuries in residential construction could have easily been prevented if OSHA regulations were followed.

Scaffolding (29 CFR 1926.451)

Employer's are responsible for designing and assembling scaffolding components in such a way that the complete system will meet the requirements of the standard. Scaffolding accidents happen when...

- planking or supports give way or
- workers slip or are struck by falling objects.

Fall Protection Application and Training (29 CFR 1926.501 and 1926.503)

The two main requirements of the fall protection standard are...

- employees working at a height of 6 feet or more above a lower level must be supported through the use of guardrails, safety nets, or personal fall arrest systems (1926.501(b)(1)) and
- employers must provide training to each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards (1926.503(a)(1)).

Ladders (29 CFR 1926.1053)

- ladders must extend at least 3 feet above the upper landing level for which they are being used to gain access or be secured at the top and used with a grab rail to assist users in mounting and dismounting the ladder (1926.1053(b)(1))
- non-self supporting ladders (such as extension ladders) needs to be 1 foot away from the wall for every 4 feet of length in the ladder (1926.1053(b)(5)(i)).

Head Protection (29 CFR 1926.100)

Head Protection is required for construction workers when...

- employees are working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact, from falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and
- protective helmets must meet the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) requirements for industrial head protection.

Stairways (29 CFR 1926.1052)

Improperly constructed temporary stairways can be a significant contributor to fall injuries affecting construction workers. Some highlights of this OSHA standard include...

- appropriate landings (at least 22" x 30") must be constructed at every 12 feet or less of vertical rise (1926.1052(a)(1)), and
- all parts of stairways must be free of hazardous projections, such as protruding nails (1926.1052(a)(6)), and
- stairways having 4 or more risers or rising more than 30 inches shall be equipped with a handrail (1926.1052(c)(1)).

For more information on the OSHA Standards for the construction industry refer to <http://www.osha.gov>

Information abstracted in part from the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and OSHA websites.



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