

# 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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