

FACE THE FACTS

HAZ ALERT



To prevent falls while working:

- **Always use appropriate fall protection systems.**
- **Conduct a thorough assessment in and around the work area to identify existing and potential fall hazards.**
- **Both employers and subcontractors should provide comprehensive fall protection training for their employees, that is site specific.**
- **Place warning signs in front of work areas and around perimeters where fall hazards have been identified.**
- **Don't place yourself in a potentially hazardous situation. Workers should always stay alert.**

WHILE WORKING, DON'T TAKE THE FALL!

Last year, 16 workers died from falls, mainly during the summer months.

During the first 6 months this year, 6 workers have already died from falls.

The first case this year involved a worker who fell through a ventilation shaft in a rock quarry. He stepped onto a corroded metal cover on an upper level which broke, and he fell 143 feet to his death into 2 feet of water on a lower level. An inspection had not been performed before work began so the cover had not been identified as a fall hazard.



A second case involved a traffic technician working from an aerial bucket replacing a burnt-out bulb at a traffic light. A delivery truck rolled through the intersection where the technician was working when the light changed from red to green. The truck driver misjudged the distance between the top of his truck and the bottom of the bucket. The top of the truck hit the bottom of the bucket and the technician fell 15 feet onto his head and died. The victim was not using a personal fall arrest system with proper tie off to the bucket.

A fall from a roof resulted in the death of a 3rd worker this year. The 23-year old female laborer was replacing box gutters on a 3 story building with her 2 brothers, who subcontracted work from a local roofing company. This was her first day on this particular job and she was organizing materials and cleaning up. She had just passed tools to a brother on the roof when she fell. It is not known whether she lost her footing or was too close to the edge. The brothers heard the sound of gutters ripping away from the building and falling. After the fall, she was transported to the hospital and died. She was not wearing a personal fall arrest system.

ALWAYS USE A FALL PROTECTION SYSTEM WHEN WORKING WHERE THERE IS A FALL HAZARD.

ALWAYS USE APPROPRIATE FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS.

Include one or more of the following: guardrail system, safety net system, personal fall arrest system, warning line systems, controlled access zones, or hole covers.

CONDUCT A THOROUGH HAZARD ASSESSMENT IN AND AROUND THE WORK AREA TO IDENTIFY EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FALL HAZARDS.

An employer-designated competent person should assess all existing and potential hazards on the job site. All covers, gutters, etc. should be inspected for integrity. All workers should receive workplace hazard awareness training specific for their work area.

BOTH EMPLOYERS AND SUBCONTRACTORS SHOULD PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE FALL PREVENTION SAFETY PROGRAMS FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES.

Fall prevention training specific to the type of work to be performed by the employee should be available through the employer. Also, subcontractors should be responsible for providing the same level of fall prevention training as the prime contractor.

PLACE WARNING SIGNS IN FRONT OF WORK AREAS AND AROUND PERIMETERS WHERE FALL HAZARDS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

Appropriate signs, signals and/or barricades should be utilized to alert and remind both workers and others near or in work zones with overhead and/or below-level potential fall hazards.

DON'T PLACE YOURSELF IN A POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS SITUATION. WORKERS SHOULD ALWAYS STAY ALERT.

Safe practices should be utilized when working in areas with identified fall hazards.

References:

Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry- Sections 1926.20 (a) and (b)(2), 1926.453 (b)(2)(v), 1926.501(a)(2), 1926.200, 1926.502 (b), 1926.502 ©, 1926.502 (d), 1926.502 (i), 1926.502(f) and 1926.502 (g).

For more information, contact:

KY Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation (FACE) Program
Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC)
333 Waller Ave., Suite 202

The KY FACE program is an occupational fatality program at KIPRC funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) (Cooperative Agreement No.: U60/CCU409879-10).