



General Guidelines

- All **wall openings**, open-sided floors or platforms 4 feet or more above an adjacent floor or ground must be **guarded by a standard railing**, which may require a toeboard
- **Fall protection** is required wherever employees are working on **unprotected surfaces more than 6 feet above** a lower level, or at ANY height above dangerous equipment
 1. Fall protection requires the use of **lifelines, harnesses, and lanyards**
 2. An **unprotected side or edge** means any side or edge (except at entrances to points of access) of a walking/working surface, e.g., floor, roof, ramp, or runway where there is no wall or guardrail system at least 39 inches (1.0 m) high.
- **Employees working on roofs** where the ground to eave height is greater than 6 feet must be protected from falling from all unprotected sides and edges of the roof **using one of the following**:
 1. **Motion stopping** safety device
 2. **Warning line system** consisting of a rope, wire or chain supported 34 to 39 inches above the roof, flagged at least every 6 feet, located:
 - A. 10 feet from the roof edge when mechanical equipment is being used; or
 - B. 6 feet from the roof edge when mechanical equipment is not being used
 3. **Safety monitoring system** on roofs of 50 feet or less in width
 - A. A safety monitoring system makes use of a competent person whose only task is to monitor and warn other workers on the roof that they are in risk of falling
- **All roof openings or holes** inside a work area must be covered.

Ladders

[View Ladder Safety powerpoint presentation](#)

- Ladders can easily become **unstable** when not set up or used properly
- When working on or **near electrical circuits**, power lines, or live electrical apparatus, use a **non-conductive ladder**
- When using a **ladder in front of doors** that open towards the ladder, make sure the door is blocked, locked, or guarded
- Always take **ladders out of service** that have broken or missing steps, rungs, cleats, or rails
- When climbing up and down, face the ladder and grasp the side rails or rungs with both hands. Avoid carrying heavy loads up or down ladders; use hoisting equipment instead. Instead of reaching off center, take time to move the ladder closer to the work. Do not straddle the space between the ladder and another object.

Portable Stepladders

- Ladders must comply with applicable ANSI standard and have legible label attached.
- Should be no longer than 20 feet. Ladders come in three grades:
 1. I (industrial), 3 to 20 feet long, for heavy duty work;
 2. II (commercial), 3 to 12 feet, for medium duty;
 3. III (household), 3 to 6 feet, for light duty work.
- Bottoms of four rails must have insulating non-slip material.



- Must have a spreader or locking device to securely hold the front and back sections in the open position.
- Before use, see that stepladders are open all the way and locked into safe position.
- Should have insulating non-slip material supplied on the bottom of the rails.
- Should not be used while standing on the top plate or second step from top.
- Must not be used with planks on top.
- Do not climb the back section unless it has steps meant for climbing.
- Don't stand on the top step or top cap.
- One person on a ladder at a time (unless labeled for two).
- Wood ladders must have not sharp edges or splinters. Visual inspection must show no wood irregularities.
- Do not paint wood step ladders. Clear non-slip sealer may be applied.

Portable Rung Ladders

- May not be more than 30 feet long (single section) or more than 60 feet long (double section).
- Should be placed so the distance from the wall to the foot of the ladder is one-fourth the length of the ladder. Set the ladder at an angle of about 75 degrees with the ground.
- Are to be placed to prevent slipping, or they must be lashed in position. Do not place ladders on boxes, barrels, or other unstable bases, or lean ladders against movable objects.
- Used to gain access to a roof should extend at least 3 feet above the point of support at eave, gutter, or roofline.
- Should never be used from the top rung or the second rung from the top.

Aerial Lifts

- Only trained employees may operate aerial lift devices (boom platforms).
- Test lift controls on boom trucks each day prior to use.
- When working from an aerial lift, a harness must be worn and a lanyard attached to the boom or basket. Belting off to an adjacent pole, structure, or equipment is NOT permitted.
- Do not sit or climb on the edge of the aerial lift basket.
- Set brakes on boom trucks. When using outriggers, position on pads or on a solid surface.
- Don't move an occupied aerial lift truck with the boom elevated in a working position unless the equipment is specifically designed for such work.
- Any aerial lift vehicles exposed to traffic will have clearly visible flashing warning lights operating during use.
- Do not operate aerial lift devices with any portion of the lift less than 10 feet from live overhead electric power lines.