



Fall protection trigger heights for the construction industry

Falls are the leading cause of death in construction. Oregon OSHA has several rules for construction activities that specify the minimum height at which workers must be protected from falling. These heights are known as “trigger heights.” The table below shows the fall protection trigger heights for construction-related work.

Note: Oregon OSHA changed the trigger height for general fall protection in construction from 10 feet to 6 feet – effective January 1, 2017. Slide guards will no longer be an allowed method of fall protection – effective October 1, 2017.



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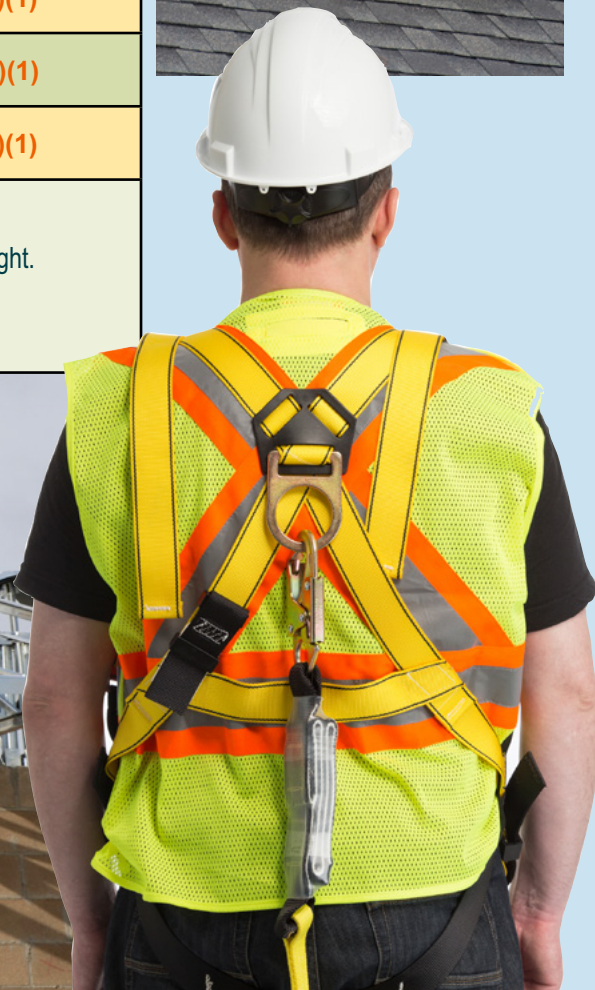
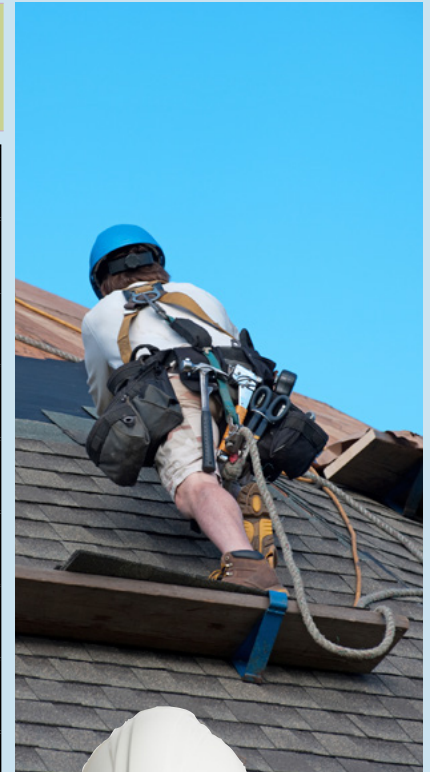
Unprotected walking or working surface	Trigger height			Rule
	Any height	Six feet	Ten feet	
General fall protection		≥		437-003-1501(1)
Holes, including skylights (tripping in or stepping into or through)	X			437-003-1501(3)
Wall openings less than 39 inches above walking/working surface		≥		437-003-1501(4)
Excavations not readily seen		≥		437-003-1501(5)(a)
Edge of a well, pit, shaft, and similar excavations		≥		437-003-1501(5)(b)
Walkways over excavations		≥		1926.651(l)
When above or adjacent to dangerous equipment	X			437-003-1501(6)
Scaffolds (supported and suspended)			>	1926.451(g)(1)
Boom-supported elevating work platforms	X			437-003-0073(2)

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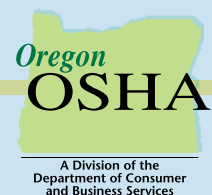
Fall protection trigger heights for the construction industry – *continued*

Unprotected walking or working surface	Trigger height			Rule
	Any height	Six feet	Ten feet	
Vehicle-mounted elevating and rotating work platforms	X			1926.453(b)(2)(v)
Cranes (boom walkways)		≥		437-003-1423(b)(1)
Cranes (assembling, disassembling, or otherwise performing work)			>	437-003-1423(2)
Cranes (hoisting personnel)	X			1926.1431(k)(10)(i)
Tower cranes			>	437-003-1423(4)
Underground construction (jumbo decks)			>	1926.800(q)(8)(iii)
Power transmission and distribution (climbers)	More than 4 feet			437-002-2306(2)(d)(i)(ii)
Steel erection (general)	More than 15 feet			1926.760(a)(1)
Steel erection (connectors)	* More than two stories or 30 feet			1926.760(b)(1)
Steel erection (controlled decking zone)	* More than two stories or 30 feet			1926.760(c)(1)

KEY: X = Fall protection system required at any height.
 ≥ = Fall protection system required at heights greater than or equal to the listed height.
 > = Fall protection system required at heights greater than the listed height.
 * Whichever height is less.



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The Standards and Technical Resources Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight our programs, policies, or standards. The information is from the field staff, research by the technical resources staff, and published materials. We urge readers to consult the actual rules as this fact sheet information is not as detailed.